Hafa Adai!

‘Respect Senate’s role to conduct impeachment hearing’ PAGE 2

18th Tinian Pika Festival postponed to March 11-13. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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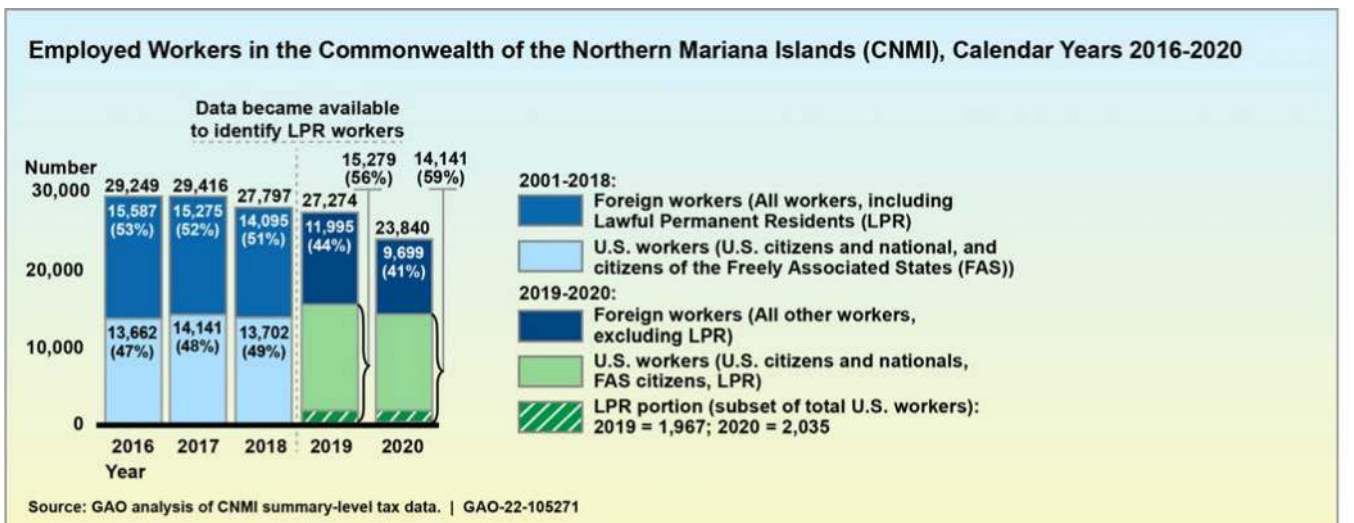
GAO: CNMI foreign workers down 73% in last 20 years


Employed Workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Calendar Years 2016-2020
Data became available to identify LPR workers
Number
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
29,249
15,587 (53%)
13,662 (47%)
29,416
15,275 (52%)
14,141 (48%)
27,797
14,095 (51%)
13,702 (49%)
27,274
11,995 (44%)
15,279 (56%)
23,840
9,699 (41%)
14,141 (59%)
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
Year
2001-2018:
Foreign workers (All workers, including Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)
U.S. workers (U.S. citizens and national, and citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS))
2019-2020:
Foreign workers (All other workers, excluding LPR)
U.S. workers (U.S. citizens and nationals, FAS citizens, LPR)
LPR portion (subset of total U.S. workers): 2019 = 1,967; 2020 = 2,035
Source: GAO analysis of CNMI summary-level tax data. | GAO-22-105271
Notes: For 2016 to 2018, U.S. workers include U.S. citizens and nationals, and citizens of the FAS-the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Foreign workers include all other workers, potentially including LPRs because the data provided to GAO did not identify LPR workers. For 2019 and 2020, U.S. workers include LPRs identified by the CNMI. Foreign workers include all other workers who are not U.S. workers.

» US workers increased, representing 59% in workforce in 2020

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The number of foreign workers in the CNMI fell by 73% from 2001 to 2020, according to the results of a study released yesterday by the U.S. Government Accountability Office on trends in the Commonwealth’s workforce and wage distribution.

The results of the GAO study show that the size of the CNMI workforce grew from 2014 to 2017 before contracting by about 5.6% in 2018, based on the CNMI tax data. By 2020, the CNMI workforce had dropped by 19% workers from the 2016 level.

See GAO on Page 4

OPA: Misuse of gov’t vehicles, lawmakers’ subsistence funding top survey’s concerns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor’s online survey of CNMI government employees shows that misuse of government vehicles and the subsistence allowance of lawmakers are among the top areas of concern that they believe merit an investigation.

According to the OPA survey results that were released yesterday, other areas of concern include equal opportunity education, misconduct in office, potential abuse of federal funds, misuse of government time, concerns over

See OPA on Page 4

NMI hits 99.9% full vaccination

The CNMI hit an enviable record of 99.9% of its eligible population fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, needing to fully vaccinate just 63 more individuals to achieve its target of fully inoculating 43,026 of its population.

» 231 new cases in NMI confirmed

» 4 COVID-19-related fatalities in Guam

Based on the vaccinatecnmi.com dashboard, a total of 44,283 first and single dose have already been administered in the CNMI. In comparison, 43,026 are now fully vaccinated, while a little less

See NMI on Page 4

$3.5M default judgment vs IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A Mongolia-based construction company who served as a contractor for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC was granted a $3.5-million default judgment in the lawsuit it filed against the casino investor.

The Superior Court Clerk of Court granted yesterday a default judgement of $3,598,712.66 in favor of Junson Construction LLC.

“Based on plaintiff’s motion for Default Judgment by

See IPI on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:09pm, Feb. 9, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 99.9%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,829
Fully Vaccinated:	36,728
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,322
Fully Vaccinated:	5,166
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,132

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	37,456	594	38,050
Recovered	31,265	579	31,844
Active	5,309	594	5,903
Deaths	299	4	303

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,332	231	6,563
Traced via Travel Screening	616	1	617
Traced via Community Screening	5,716	230	5,946
Deaths	23	0	23

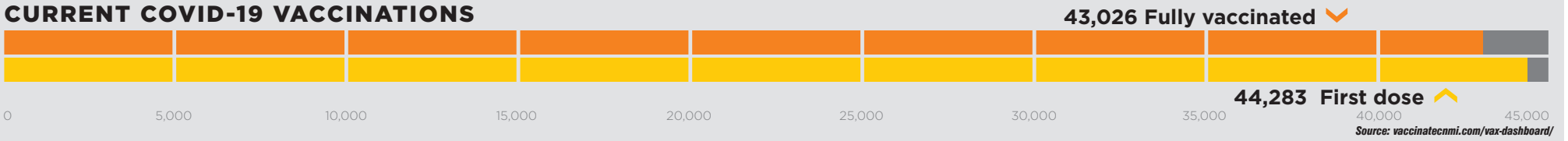
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

NATION

‘The officers charged with violating George Floyd's civil rights failed to follow their training.’

Page 12

ASIA

Campaigning in the Philippines' presidential election has started with a cast of five candidates.

Page 13

LIFE & STYLE

Netflix's "The Power of the Dog" led nominations to the 94th Academy Awards with 12 nods.

» PAGE x

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

‘Respect Senate’s role to conduct impeachment hearing’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Saying the Senate has yet to come up with its Rules of Impeachment, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has returned to the House of Representatives the partial record of impeachment proceedings that Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) had delivered to his office.

In his letter to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) Monday, Hofschneider said that, just as the Senate has never intruded on the House’s role as the initiator of impeachment proceedings or the manner in which the House conducted its proceedings, it is incumbent upon the House to respect the Senate’s role to conduct a hearing on impeachment under rules the Senate establishes.

Hofschneider disclosed that the Senate has received a letter dated Feb. 4, 2022, from Babauta that demands that the Senate accept the House’s partial record of impeachment proceedings. He said Babauta also demands that the Senate accept the House’s assignment of impeachment managers and that he conceals the contents of the partial record from the members of the Senate.

Babauta chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee that had investigated Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

Hofschneider said that Babauta’s letter has the accompanying flash drive and compact discs containing the partial record of the House impeachment proceedings.

Hofschneider said the Senate is moving at all deliberate speed toward the establishment of Rules of Impeachment and that until such time as those rules are finalized, it would be premature to accept a partial record from the House.

He said it is also premature to accept the designation of House Impeachment managers.

Not only is it premature, Hofschneider said, but it is also inappropriate for the House to dictate to the Senate the number and identity of what Babauta has termed “Impeachment Managers.”

Hofschneider

“Because the Senate cannot receive these records as a partial record or even as the whole of the House Impeachment Record, there is no reason for me to address whether the request to conceal those records is an appropriate request from the chairwoman,” Hofschneider added.

He said that Babauta states in her letter that the House record contains documents Bates-stamped 00001 through 02639. However, the president said, the referenced enclosure purports to contain documents Bates-stamped 0001 through 05731.

» Senate president returns partial record of impeachment proceedings delivered by Babauta

Hofschneider said that, of the CDs listed in the letter, item 112(h) indicates “Mr. Robert A. Guerrero, DPS Commissioner-Dec. 10, 2021.”

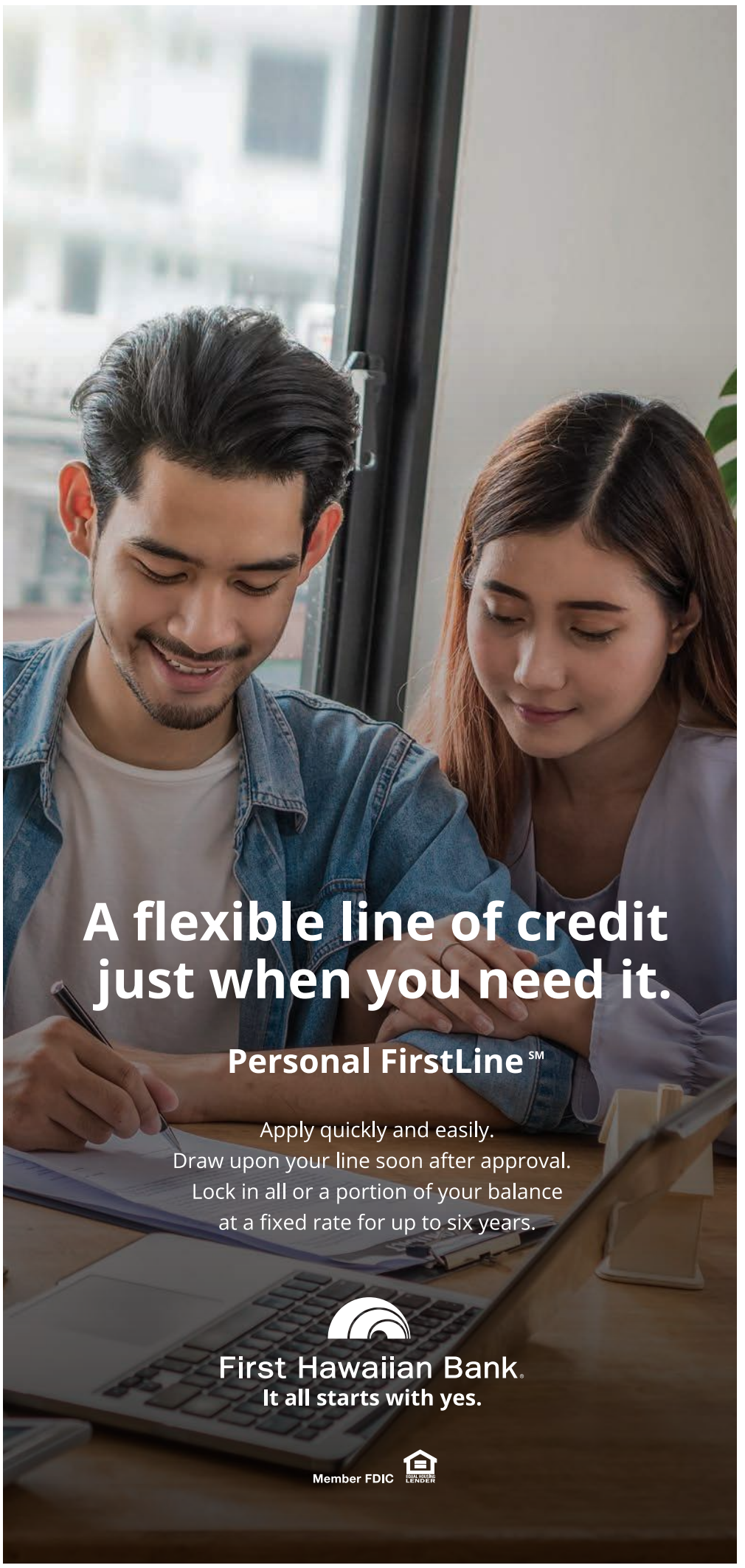
However, he said, of the CDs received, none of which were labeled as specified under item 112(h), but there is one CD labeled as “Dec. 10, 2021. JGO Ross Garber. DPS COM.”

The president said it is unclear which materials should be considered part of the “partial record.”

Hofschneider said perhaps the House will be able to better prepare the Impeachment Record when the Rules for the format of such materials are clearly established.

He said the Senate has already taken upon itself the task for producing the rules and has done so on an extremely shortened timetable. He said that after the publication of those rules, the House will have clear guidance as to how such materials should be provided.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com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18th Tinian Pika Festival postponed to March 11-13

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the community, the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival slated for this month has been postponed to March 11-13, 2022.

The Marianas Visitors Authority announced the decision yesterday after consultations with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp, CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, and the festival's co-organizer, the Tinian Mayor's Office.

"Due to the rising number of COVID cases in Saipan and elsewhere, there is a concern about what a sudden influx of visitors might mean for Tinian, so we have decided to postpone the festival in hopes things will be more stable in March," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Community safety is always the MVA's first concern at our signature events, and we are confident that postponing the festival is the right decision at this time. We encourage our community to complete their vaccination and boosters shots, if they haven't already."

Refunds for ferry seats are available by visiting the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan, or Tinian. The original ticket, receipt and valid photo ID must be shown for a refund. Alternately, ticket holders may rebook for available seats for the ferry in March, with restrictions, once the new ferry schedule is determined.

The festival, held at the Festival Ground in San Jose and affectionately knowns as "Pika Fest" among locals ("pika" means spicy), pays homage to Tinian's small but famous "donne sali" hot pepper and includes a full weekend of activities including food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at 664-3200 or email jaranda@mymarianas.com or Tinian field operations supervisor Vida Borja at 433-9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

House minority members support Senate increase for retirees' bonus

Demapan

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) and four members of the House of Representatives minority bloc are supporting the Senate's substitute to House Bill 22- 91, HD1. The measure, which is now H.B. 22-91, HD1, SS1, was passed by the Senate to increase the amount of retirees' bonus from $500 to $1,000.

In addition to Demapan, the four other lawmakers backing the increase in retiree bonus are Reps. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Roy A. Ada (R-Saipan), Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Joseph A. Flores (I-Saipan).

Demapan authored Public Law 20-10, the statute that provided retirees with their bonuses in 2017 and 2018, the last time government retirees were given a bonus.

H.B. 22-91, HD1, SS1, is

See HOUSE on Page 4

IPI agrees to secure $6M bond in case of seven construction workers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has agreed to secure a $6 million "supersedes bond" in the case filed by seven former construction workers alleging labor violations.

The parties in this case filed a stipulation, or agreement, with the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday, with IPI agreeing to issue a supersedeas bond (or bonds) in form and substance acceptable to plaintiffs from an accredited company in the total amount of $6,000,000 on or before June 30, 2022.

In exchange for securing the bond, the seven workers agree that they shall take no action to execute on or enforce the default judgment granted in their favor of over $5 million.

Also, the parties informed the court that they will execute a stipulation in which IPI agrees that the seven construction workers may take over the limited receivership to sell the gaming equipment and assume all rights previously held by U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd. However, upon approval of this agreement by the court, the parties agree to stay any action by the receiver for a set period of time and agree that the stay will be further extended so long as IPI performs all of its obligations under the agreement.

While IPI works on securing a supersedeas bond, three of IPI's properties on Saipan will be put up as collateral: Flame Tree, Chalan Lau Lau dorm, and its property in San Roque.

"Once the supersedeas bond totals $6,000,000, IPI shall be entitled to a release of the encumbrances on the collateral properties, except for Flame Tree (or another single property of plaintiffs' choosing), which shall remain as a collateral property until the appeal is concluded and all additional amounts have been indefeasibly paid to plaintiffs. However, IPI may also elect to secure an additional supersedeas bond in the amount of $1,250,000 (or to amend the existing supersedeas bond to a total of $7,250,000). In which case the encumbrances on all of the collateral properties shall be released," the agreement stated.

The leasehold for the 16-parcel property on Saipan, Flame Tree, is currently held by East Gain Global, according to Bruce Berline and Aaron Halegua, who represent the seven workers in this case. Currently, the U.S. Department of Labor holds a lien against Flame Tree. However, IPI agrees and warrants that all monies owed to USDOL shall be paid consistent with the payment schedule agreed with the USDOL and filed with the court. This means the USDOL is expected to file a satisfaction of judgment on or before March 1, 2022, and the USDOL's lien on Flame Tree shall then be vacated or released.

According to a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, the plaintiffs in this case have reached an agreement on all substantive terms of an agreement to stay enforcement, under which IPI will provide sufficient security and the plaintiffs will agree to stay enforcement of their judgment pending the outcome of IPI's appeal.

The plaintiffs in this case are Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan.

RED CROSS DONATION DONNA RIVERA

The Joeten-Daidai Foundation donates $10,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for the "Red Cross Gala" on Feb. 26. The donation, which puts the foundation at the Lifetime Achievement sponsorship tier, was made yesterday inside the Joeten Susupe Store. Photo shows Darlene Macaranas and other officials of the Joeten-Daidai Foundation presenting the check to American Red Cross representatives led by executive director John Hirsh.

OPA

From Page 1

falsifying information with regards to federal programs, unfair hiring practices, and abuse of authority.

OPA said 154 respondents shared a wide range of responses, but most responses did not contain enough information to be considered an investigative tip.

OPA conducted the online survey between Dec. 6 and 31, 2021, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It featured five questions, one of which was which areas within the agency or program government employees believe merit an investigation. A total of 541 employees participated in the survey.

OPA plans to use the results of the survey and future surveys for audit planning.

To gain an understanding of the areas in which OPA can provide guidance and support to employees, respondents were also asked in what topics they could benefit through training.

OPA said the survey results indicated a wide range of areas and laws where employees expressed interest in receiving training from OPA.

Approximately 21% of respondents expressed interest in receiving ethics training that include conflicts of intetest, unfair hiring practices, political activity in the workplace, gift giving or receiving, and the "Do's and Don'ts" of working in a government agency.

Other topics of interest across the agencies include information on OPA's function in government; proper methods of safely reporting fraud, waste, theft, and abuse in workplaces; and Citizen-Centric Reporting guidelines.

Specific training interests include procurement and contract management, government vehicle and property use rules and regulations, human resources, salary rights, time and attendance policies, double dipping or working two jobs, public safety, individual agency's internal policies and organizational structure, customer service, official government travel rules and regulations, MUNIS system, sexual harassment, and drug abuse awareness.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GAO

From Page 1

Latesha Love, director of GAO International Affairs and Trade, prepared the study.

GAO found that the overall number and share of foreign workers in the CNMI workforce fell significantly over the last 20 years, from about 36,000 workers in 2001, to about 9,700 workers in 2020, representing about a 73% decline.

The number of U.S. workers remained more stable than the number of foreign workers, dropping from about 15,500 workers in 2001, to about 14,000 workers in 2020, about a 9% decline.

Overall, the share of U.S. workers increased over those 20 years, representing 30% of the workforce in 2001 and 59% in 2020.

GAO said this trend could continue as CNMI tax data is expected to increasingly enable the identification of persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or LPRs—shifting workers previously counted as foreign workers to U.S. workers—thereby increasing the percentage of U.S. workers.

GAO said U.S. workers were about half of the workforce in 2016 but 59% in 2020, in part due to a 2019 law that allowed foreign workers with employment visas to become long-term U.S. residents.

The NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 included a provision for GAO to biennially examine the ratio of U.S. workers to other workers in the CNMI over the five previous calendar years. GAO was also asked to examine the structure of wages for workers in the CNMI.

The report examines recent trends in composition of the CNMI workforce, including the ratio of U.S. workers to foreign workers in the CNMI during the previous five calendar years.

The report also examines the distribution of wages for workers in the CNMI from 2019 through 2021.

GAO also found out that an annual study showed the number of workers earning less than $8 an hour declined by 68% from 2019 to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lower study participation.

Under the CW program, which is the program for foreign workers in the CNMI, the ratio of U.S. to foreign workers in the CNMI remained close to 50% from 2016 through 2018.

U.S. workers increased to 56% in 2019 and 59% in 2020, partly because the CNMI government identified LPRs in the total of U.S. workers.

The size of the overall workforce grew from 2016 to 2017 before contracting by about 2,000 workers in 2018, and dropped by more than 5,000 workers from 2016 to 2020.

According to the 2020 Census, the total population of the CNMI in 2020 was 47,329.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security approved about 11,600 CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) foreign worker permits in 2019 and about 5,400 in 2021, dropping from a high of 13,685 in fiscal year 2017.

The overall number of CW-1 permits approved by USCIS fell from a high of 13,685 in fiscal year 2017 to 5,365 in fiscal year 2021.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMI

From Page 1

than half (19,914) have already had their booster shots.

The 2020 Census placed the total CNMI population at 47,329.

This comes even as 231 additional individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI, bringing the Commonwealth's total to 6,563 cases since March 26, 2020.

Of the 231 new cases, a total of 127 were identified on Feb. 7, 2022; 87 on Feb. 6, 2022; and 17 on Feb. 4, 2022.

A total of 71 were identified via contact tracing, 159 via community testing, and one via travel testing. Thirty of the new cases were identified on Tinian and two on Rota. The vaccination statuses of the 231 cases identified are pending verification.

As of Feb. 8, 2022, there were eight individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, five of them unvaccinated, two vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated. One of the eight is on a ventilator.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of four COVID-19-related fatalities yesterday.

The 300th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on Feb. 2, 2022. The patient was a 68-year-old female, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Jan. 30, 2022.

The 301st COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at GRMC on Feb. 7, 2022. The patient was an 83-year-old male, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Feb. 7, 2022.

The 302nd COVID-19-related fatality occurred at GRMC on Feb. 8, 2022. The patient was an 81-year-old male, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Jan. 22, 2022.

The 303rd COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Feb. 8, 2022. The patient was an 89-year-old female, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Feb. 8, 2022.

These came as Guam reported 594 new cases and 52 hospitalizations.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

Clerk of Court pursuant to rule 14 55(b)(1) and the supporting affidavit, default judgment is hereby entered against defendant Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited in the amount of $3,598,712.66," the motion stated.

Back in 2019, Junson began its work as a contractor for the Best Sunshine project on an H2-B visa on Saipan. The company hired hundreds of Mongolian workers to aid in the construction of the Best Sunshine casino in Garapan.

In 2021, the former IPI contractor sued the casino investor and its mother company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., for breach of contract.

The construction company filed for default judgement on the grounds that IPI failed to respond to its claims.

HOUSE

From Page 3

now before the House of Representatives and, if passed, will head to Gov.r Ralph DLG Torres for his approval.

"It's been a few years since our retirees have had the opportunity to receive a bonus," noted Demapan. "We are grateful that the Senate leadership was able to increase the bonus amount to $1,000 and we are ready to support when it appears on the House session agenda. Our retirees have been patient and we would like to see them get these funds as soon as possible." ***(PR)***

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TSLF is exclusive Pika Fest sponsor

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has donated $5,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority to support the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, which will now be held on March 11-13.

TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino turned over the donation to MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez in a brief ceremony last Monday to affirm the TanHoldings charitable arm's commitment as an exclusive sponsor of the festival, more popularly known as the "Pika Fest." The festival is one of the signature events of MVA, showcasing Tinian's local culture, music and dances, and food, particularly the island's pika (spicy) "donne sali"or hot pepper. The Pika Fest will be held at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to Jones Beach.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation joins the Marianas Visitors Authority and the people of Tinian in celebrating the Pika Fest, which is one of most popular events in the NMI. We hope to see Tinian residents sharing a weekend of fun and learning experience with Saipan and other off-island visitors," Tolentino said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez, third from left, receives the ceremonial check donation for the 18th Annual Tinian Pika Festival from Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, second from left, assistant manager Raymond Zapanta, left, and administrative officer Rina Robles, right, during a brief presentation last Monday at the TanHoldings conference room in Garapan.

Villagomez thanked the TSL Foundation and TanHoldings for their continued support for the Pika Fest and other MVA events that promote the Marianas as an integrated multi-island destination with a unique culture and tradition and a very welcoming people. ***(PR)***

USCIS issues policy guidance on exemptions for H-2B workers in Guam, CNMI under 2021 NDA

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is issuing updated policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to clarify how petitioners may demonstrate that they qualify for an exemption from the temporary need requirement for a nonimmigrant visa petition for a temporary nonagricultural H-2B worker in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that falls under the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Specifically, the guidance clarifies how petitioners may demonstrate, depending on the facts presented in each case, that they qualify for the exemption based on contracts or subcontracts that are "supporting" or "adversely affected by" the military realignment on Guam and in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-010

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant and Distribution System on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-010*, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant and Distribution System on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 22, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Co`de (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-018

LEASE AND DELIVERY OF MIDSIZE SUV VEHICLES FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease and delivery of midsize SUV vehicles for the CUC Administration in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-018, Lease and Delivery of Midsize SUV Vehicles for Administration"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 10, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 17, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Jenine Santos, CUC Purchasing Technician at Jenine.santos@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-008	CDBG-DR Administrative Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	Jan. 27, 2022	Feb. 11, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone:(670) 234-1615 | Fax:(670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Petitioner Neimara Blanco Weilbacher

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF JUAN DIEGO CAMACHO BLANCO, Deceased. : Civil Action No. 22-0005 : AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS : Date: March 17, 2022 Time: 10:00 am : Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JUAN DIEGO CAMACHO BLANCO, OR HIS ESTATE:

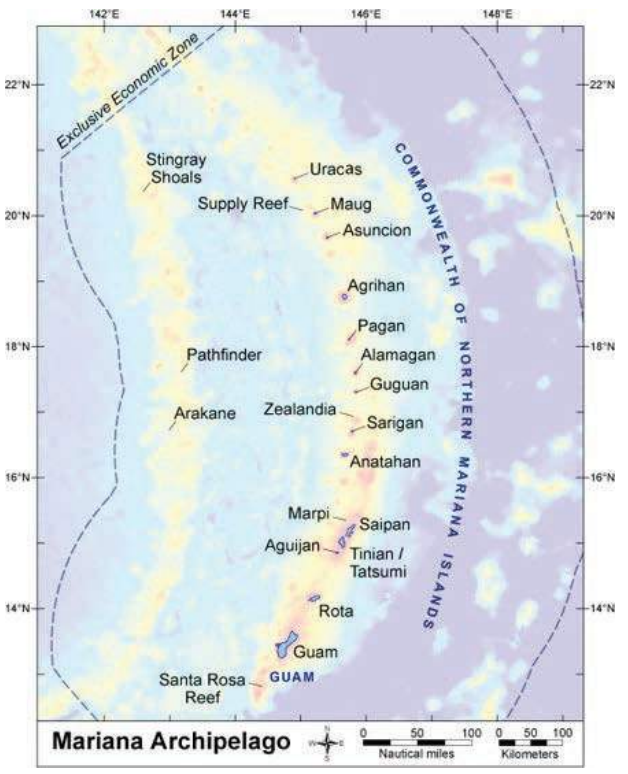
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Neimara Blanco Weilbacher has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Juan Diego Camacho Blanco, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the Amended Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON**, Attorney at Law, at the address above indicated.

Dated this day of January, 2022.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

THE INCREMENTAL TAKE OVER OF WATERS IN THE MARIANAS ARCHIPELAGO BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS

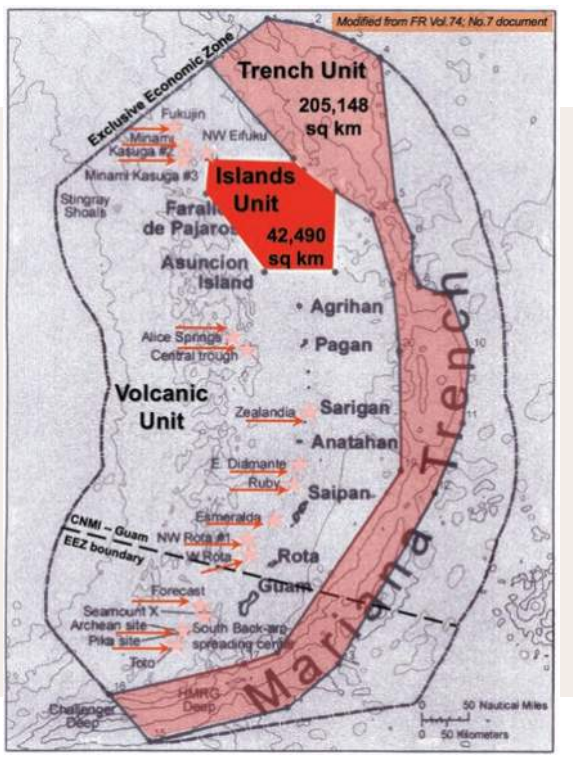


2008:
Marianas Archipelago
with Federally Managed "No Take" Conservation Areas

Total area of Marianas Archipelago Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) 970,772 sq. km.

Estimated Marine Closures Due to Federally Managed Conservation Areas

Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to commercial fishing	< 1 %
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to potential mining activities	< 1 %
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to free passage by Mariana residents	< 1 %
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to U.S. Military Activities	< 1 %



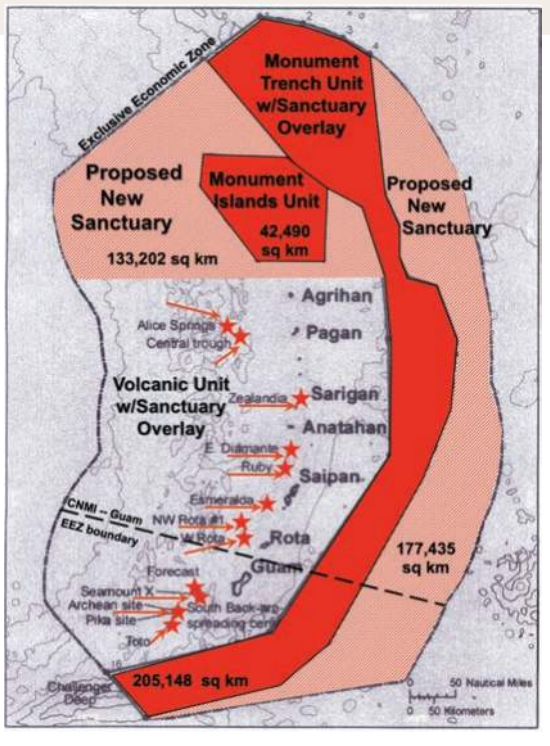
2009:
Marianas Archipelago
with the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument

COMMERCIAL FISHING PROHIBITED
MINING PROHIBITED

Commercial Fishing Allowed
MINING PROHIBITED

Estimated Marine Closures Due to Federally Managed Conservation Areas

Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to commercial fishing	4.4%
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to potential mining activities	25.5%
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to free passage by Mariana residents	4.4%
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to U.S. Military Activities	< 1 %



2022:
Marianas Archipelago
Proposed Marine Sanctuary Plan by PEW

COMMERCIAL FISHING PROHIBITED
MINING PROHIBITED

COMMERCIAL FISHING PROHIBITED
MINING PROHIBITED

Estimated Marine Closures Due to Federally Managed Conservation Areas

Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to commercial fishing	> 57.5 %
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to potential mining activities	> 57.5 %
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to free passage by Mariana residents	> 57.5 %
Estimated percentage of EEZ **CLOSED** to U.S. Military Activities	< 1 %

This figure was modified from the NOAA sanctuary nomination document by Pew Charitable Trusts" and "Friends of Mariana Trench"

Quotes from the Pew/FOMT Sanctuary Nomination Package:

"The Trench Unit could be included in a potential sanctuary if the water column habitat is included, as could the area east of the Trench Unit out to the extent of the US EEZ without negatively affecting any fisheries on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, or Guam."

"We believe that a permitting system would be appropriate for limiting and managing the types of vessels entering the sanctuary…. The permitting system should be based on Saipan, and support for local people to apply for a permit, especially those related to cultural activities, should be provided using federal resources." (emphasis added)

"There are at least 130 seamounts outside the borders of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, but inside the US EEZ around the Mariana Islands. These are areas of high biodiversity, biomass, and endemism, and should be considered for protection." (emphasis added)

Make an informed decision CNMI and Guam. It's your future.

A virtual public meeting will be conducted by NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries this Saturday (12 February) at 10 am. You will be able to provide verbal comments on whether you support a marine sanctuary for the Marianas. You can register for the event at https://nominate.noaa.gov/5-year-review.html

Written comments are due February 22, 2022. One way to submit your comments is to send them via email to Kristina.Kekuewa@noaa.gov.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

We are united in our defiance to the U.S.! America is being way too aggressive!!
America and their NATO allies have accused China of human rights abuse! They have no right to take our freedom away!!!
TO: UKRAINE
PUTIN
RUSSIA
Xi
CHINA

EDITORIAL

COVID treatment warrants fresh look

COVID-19's omicron variant spelled trouble in multiple ways.

It is highly transmissible. It weakened vaccines' defense against infection, though the shots still confer strong protection against severe illness. In addition, two of three widely used monoclonal antibody treatments for those infected with it are essentially ineffective.

The virus's ability to surprise requires a medical arsenal that adapts nimbly as well. Given that, it's time for the World Health Organization (WHO) and other officials to take a fresh look at a historic infectious disease treatment—convalescent plasma.

Minnesota's political leaders could—and should—join the call for re-evaluation.

In 2020, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., introduced legislation to raise awareness of convalescent plasma's importance. In 2022, this high-profile senator and former presidential candidate has an opportunity to act again, this time by aiding physicians at Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota.

Doctors from these medical centers are urging health officials to consider and smooth the way for this naturally generated therapy to play a different role in treating COVID-19.

During the early pandemic, it was given to the very sickest patients in the hospital. While research ultimately didn't support that use, there is solid new data from Johns Hopkins-led researchers backing its value in early treatment. Like the monoclonal antibodies, convalescent plasma could be given promptly to reduce the risk of hospitalization.

A letter from Klobuchar and others to key agencies could spotlight this new research. It could also help address a bureaucratic snag contributing to a supply bottleneck.

Convalescent plasma has a long history helping combat disease. Before there were antibiotics and antivirals, physicians recognized that recovering patients could help others from becoming seriously ill. The reason: the antibodies they naturally manufactured.

Blood donated by these patients can be "processed to remove blood cells, leaving behind liquid (plasma) and antibodies," according to the Mayo Clinic. The antibodies can then be infused into the newly ill. It's like having a seasoned platoon show up to assist immune system soldiers.

Doctors like Mayo's Dr. Michael Joyner were on the front lines in researching this treatment against COVID-19. Their work inspired hope early in the pandemic before vaccines.

The WHO recently reviewed pooled research data on the therapy's effectiveness in treating COVID-19. On Dec. 7, it updated its guidelines, recommending against its use, but said clinical trials should continue for severely ill patients.

But on Dec. 21, Johns Hopkins-led researchers posted their findings from a multicenter trial involving 1,181 patients. Unlike many other studies, they were given concentrated convalescent plasma early, not when seriously ill. The research, posted to the preprint website MedRxiv, found:

"With early administration of high-titer SARS-CoV-2

See COVID on Next Page

Even with green cards, immigrants face hiring discrimination based on where they were born

By A. NICOLE KREISBERG
Chicago Tribune

A. Nicole Kreisberg is a David E. Bell postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University's Center for Population and Development Studies.

Carlos, 33, remembers the 2016 election like it was yesterday.

That was the night he got his long-awaited green card. Before then, he had been working under the table at odd jobs—or worse, for employers who withheld his wages—while living in the country without legal permission. With his green card in hand, he could finally work lawfully in the U.S.

He submitted an application to a job at a local public servant's office. He had majored in political science at a U.S. college, and working in politics was his American Dream. Yet he was turned down for the job.

He didn't know why. Carlos finally had what he needed to work, a college degree and his green card, but the door was slammed shut anyway. Carlos isn't alone.

Across the United States, Latinos who were born abroad, even if they have legal papers, the right to work and college degrees, aren't hired at the same rate as Latinos born in the U.S. And even though many policy advocates assume that giving more individuals the legal right to work via green cards is the best way for them to get jobs, my research suggests that the right to work is not enough unless employers treat workers equally too.

News outlets as early as 1916 have been talking about "the American Dream," as an editorial in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* shows—supporting the belief that economic success is attainable for everyone who works hard. But Latinos have long argued that their American Dream is not possible because employers discriminate against them based on where they are born.

Unfortunately, that's extremely difficult to prove. Employers can argue that they turn down foreign-born candidates based on individual failures such as less experience, no college degree or a lack of fluency in English.

So in 2019, I came up with a plan to find out what would happen if companies were faced with two equally educated, equally trained Latinos applying for a job: one born in the U.S. and one born abroad. This is a real-life academic experiment called a correspondence audit study. I sent out resumes online to 1,364 job postings in eight of the country's largest metropolitan areas, including Chicago. The resumes—representing fictitious Latino male college graduates—were identical in every way except for whether they were born on American soil.

I was shocked to see just how often employers discriminated against the foreign-born candidates. Employers called back the foreign-born candidates for a job interview nearly half as often as native-born candidates—even when foreign-born candidates signaled that they had green cards and legal documentation. That's like native Chicagoans' chances of a callback being cut in half just because they were born in one neighborhood over another.

For the last decade, I've seen firsthand the damage caused by this kind of illegal hiring discrimination. Immigrants make vital contributions to the U.S. economy—in what they purchase, where they live and how they work. In both high- and low-skilled jobs, immigrants fill important labor shortages, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When people are able to put themselves through college, get a degree and still find themselves shut out of a job simply due to where they were born, the entire economy suffers. So do all of our civil rights.

The social spending bill promoted by President Joe Biden advocates for administering more unused green cards under the premise that giving more people work rights will get more people working. While I agree that more people should get green cards, my research shows that rights to work are not enough to grant access to work—especially if employers disregard that fundamental civil right. In addition, lawmakers must better prevent employers from breaking discrimination law.

Currently, the only way employers are punished for breaking discrimination law is if workers themselves file a complaint after the fact. But these complaints are notoriously hard to prove, especially given that employers can retaliate against potential hires and they have far more power and resources. Instead, federal and state offices should help employers prevent discrimination in the first place, such as by requiring employers to collect transparent, publicly available data on the hiring process.

No one should be discriminated against simply based on where they were born. We must protect our communities, in Chicago and nationally, from this insidious civil rights violation.

After all, people can't work hard toward their American Dream without first having an opportunity to work.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Math anxiety is real—and we're passing it on to our kids

By MICHAEL BROOKS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The disruptions to children's schooling over the past two years have caused millions of American parents to come to an unexpected revelation: They are not as good at math as they had hoped. Nothing exposes your lack of ability with numbers like trying to teach your own child about fractions. But there is an upside: We now have more direct experience and understanding that can help improve the nation's math literacy.

Math doesn't come easy, no matter how clever you are. Leonardo da Vinci was a huge fan of mathematics. One to-do list in his notebooks included the task "learn multiplication from the root from Maestro Luca"; his friend Luca Pacioli was a renowned teacher of mathematics. The notebooks also show that da Vinci was clumsy at arithmetic and couldn't do fractions. He could never grasp, for instance, that dividing a number by one-quarter is the same as multiplying by four, resulting in a higher number than the original.

Knowing that even a genius's brain sometimes fails with numerical concepts can be reassuring. No animal species—ours included—does mathematics naturally. Most human societies have trained successive generations to deal in numbers simply because math's value was understood.

Proof that our brains are not hard-wired for math comes from the fact that learning to count involves co-opting the neural circuits that keep track of our fingers. MRI studies show that doing arithmetic sends blood coursing through these regions of the brain. Interestingly, once we're good at math, it takes less blood to get the job done. This is almost certainly why every numerate human society counts on their fingers (and sometimes toes).

But, after learning the basics, we tend to flounder. That's because counting numbers is only the first of the unnatural acts required to understand mathematics. Fractions are particularly cruel because to add, multiply and divide them we have to learn a whole new set of rules, dismantling our hard-won understanding of how numbers work.

Mathematical concepts are often taught as if they are self-evident or God-given. But they were tough to figure out to begin with and can be difficult to explain to even the sharpest minds. It makes sense that they remain hard to understand for many people. Yet we expect 11-year-olds just to comprehend them and move on.

Acting as if math isn't challenging is problematic. It can lead to "math anxiety" that cascades down through generations. Around 93% of U.S. adults indicate that they suffer from some level of negative emotions—and sometimes physical symptoms such as clammy hands or elevated heart rates—when asked to interact with mathematical problems.

That's not just a problem for the afflicted, because math anxiety is contagious. Research shows that parents with high levels of math anxiety pass that fear on if they try to help their children with mathematics homework. Those children end up learning less math than they would if their parents hadn't tried to help. The same goes for math-anxious teachers—a 2020 study showed that elementary school teachers with math anxiety have a detrimental effect on their students' achievements.

Something about how math is taught in America has led to a situation where more than 30% of U.S. adults are defined as having "low numeracy." That means they can't make calculations with whole numbers and percentages, estimate numbers or quantity or interpret simple statistics in text or tables. Counting, sorting and basic arithmetic are their limit. Only 8% of Japanese adults and 13% of adults in Finland have the same limitations. Much of the disparity is likely due to the higher pay, more extensive training and better resources given to teachers in those two countries.

At the other end of the achievement scale, just 39% of U.S. adults performed at or above numeracy levels where they could do things like gain useful information from a graph or a thermometer. That's compared to 63% in Japan and 58% in Finland.

These mathematical high-achievers are the people equipped for technical careers such as engineering or software development—creating and innovating in areas that have higher pay and encourage a country's economic growth.

The first step to developing a more numerate, less math-anxious population is to be honest about the fact that math is hard and unnatural, and takes time, energy and effort to learn. Finding math difficult should not be a source of shame. Struggling students need time, help and empathy. They also need accessible opportunities to improve, such as the provision of learning steps that are smaller than usual, and catch-up classes.

We also need to redefine what counts as necessary for success. Most people will not use circle theorem outside of school. Only a tiny percentage will use calculus after they have learned it. Solutions for a quadratic equation, which was invented as a Babylonian tax-calculation tool, are generally not useful in the 21st century.

Don't get me wrong: Algebra, calculus and geometry are wonderful things and should be accessible to students in the same way we make certain courses in literature, history and the arts accessible—not required—to those who are interested.

But let's stop pretending that some of these math courses teach important life skills that must be learned before an education can be considered complete. If we can do that, we might begin to fix the problems that our dysfunctional relationship with math has created.

Michael Brooks is the author of The Art of More: How Mathematics Created Civilization.

COVID

From Page 8

convalescent plasma reducing outpatient hospitalizations by more than 50%, our findings suggest that this is another effective treatment for COVID-19 with the advantages being low cost, wide availability and rapid resilience to the evolving SARS-CoV-2," Johns Hopkins researcher Dr. Kelly Gebo stated.

Dr. Claudia Cohn, a University of Minnesota Medical School professor and transfusion medicine researcher, called the new findings "really good strong data." She said it would be helpful for leaders in Washington, D.C., to ask questions about the new findings and how to boost plasma supplies.

A spotlight is especially needed on foot-dragging by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It has yet to set a reimbursement policy for outpatient treatment with convalescent plasma despite a recent plea by three leading blood banking organizations. Doing so could help spur blood banks to collect more plasma.

A Klobuchar spokeswoman lauded the scientific community's "remarkable work" and said the senator believes "regulatory agencies should vet new treatments with urgency and make them available to the public as soon as scientific evidence shows it is safe to do so."

We hope Minnesota's senior senator and others heed this call for help from leading medical researchers. This promising treatment deserves another look.

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Olympians should be climate activists

By JENA LOCOCO
Progressive Perspectives

Jena Lococo is a public voices fellow on the climate crisis with the OpEd Project in partnership with the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. This column was produced for The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing are right around the corner. Even though the torch is not yet lit, the Olympic Games have already thrust China's human rights abuse record into the spotlight, with the United States leading a diplomatic boycott against the sporting event, the first since 1980.

But human rights are not the only frightening shadow hanging over this year's Olympics. There is also the issue of climate change, as rising temperatures and extreme weather will soon begin changing where competitions can be located.

Last year's Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo were a prime example of how climate change is impacting sports. Dubbed "The Rings of Fire," these were the hottest games ever. Athletes exerted themselves to the point of heat exhaustion, and some events had to be relocated or rescheduled due to extreme heat conditions.

Researchers have predicted that by 2050, only one former Winter Olympics location may be cold enough for winter sports. The lack of snow is already a reality that affects the games today; in fact, this year's Olympics will completely rely on man-made snow, which is carbon intensive to create because it requires large amounts of water and electricity.

As much as sports serve as an escape for fans, what goes on in the arena has always tended to reflect what is going on in the world around it.

In the 1930s, track athlete Jesse Owens defied Adolf Hitler's "master race" agenda by competing in the Berlin Olympic Games and winning four gold medals. In 1968, U.S. Olympic champions John Carlos and Tommie Smith raised a black-gloved salute in accepting their medals, as a sign of solidarity with oppressed Black people around the world.

Athletes hold a tremendous amount of influence. Soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo is the most-followed individual on Instagram, with nearly 360 million followers—that's nearly 5% of the world's population. What if he spoke up about ways to address climate change?

Olympic athletes are not engineers or climate scientists, and we should not rely on them to conduct climate modeling or analyze weather patterns. But they are immersed in various environments for their sport, seeing patterns emerge that they can and should comment on. They spend their time training on the snow that is melting, oceans that are acidifying and heat that is intensifying.

Athletes witness these changes firsthand and can share what they are seeing to ignite change in others. If your court is burning, you cannot just "shut up and dribble," as basketball great LeBron James was told to do by a TV commentator after he discussed racial issues in an interview.

Luckily, organizations like EcoAthletes are partnering with athletes to better equip them to take the lead on climate action. "The world is in a crisis," the group says on its website, taking up a sports metaphor: "It is late in the 4th quarter and we are losing to climate change. The science says the clock is ticking: Humanity has until 2030 to reduce carbon emissions by 45% to avoid the most calamitous impacts of climate change. Good news is [that] the technology largely exists to get us there."

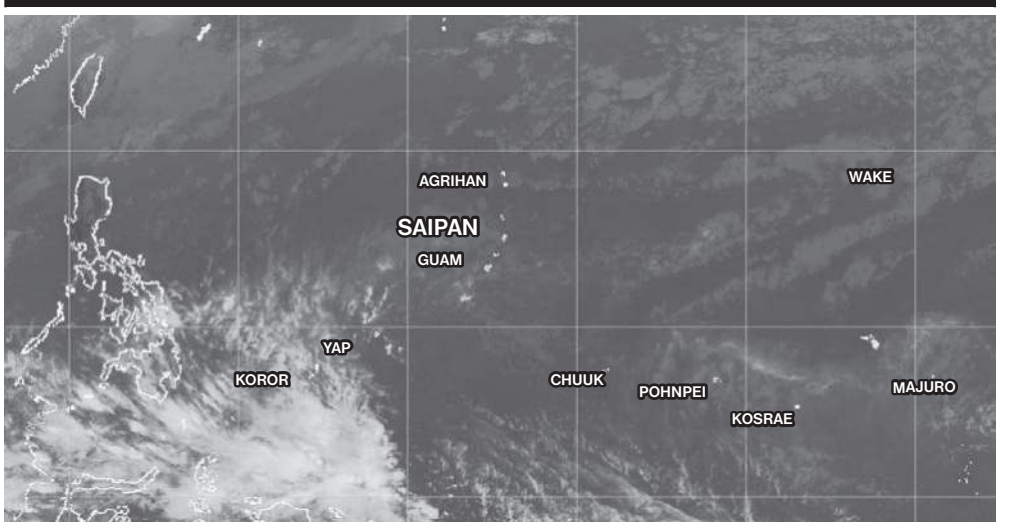
We look to athletes as role models and sources of inspiration. They test the limits of human boundaries and are symbols of strength, resilience and the ability to overcome obstacles. Athletes have an opportunity to continue this inspiration off of the field as climate leaders. It's time fans encourage them to seize it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers
86º 76º	86º 75	86º 75º	86º 75º	85º 75º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:41 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Guam and Rota waters. Observations show some shower activity within the Tinian and Saipan waters, just at a lower level. Most likely, the radar beam is overshooting the tops of these showers. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 7 to 9 feet, composed mainly of short period east swell and northeast wind waves. Wave model guidance indicates a north swell which the buoy is probably mostly shielded from, which could raise combined seas an additional 1 to 2 feet in the open ocean.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	28 / 24 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:43 AM	18:18 PM
Friday	06:43 AM	118:19 PM
Saturday	06:42 AM	18:19 PM
Sunday	06:42 AM	18:19 PM
Monday	06:42 AM	18:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	01:22 PM	12:55 PM
Friday	-	02:14 PM	13:40 PM
Saturday	-	03:05 PM	14:28 PM
Sunday	-	03:57 PM	15:19 PM
Monday	-	04:47 PM	16:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	AM Showers	26 / 21 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	11 / -3 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	19 / 17 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	27 / 19 °F
London	AM Showers	9 / 0°F
Los Angeles	Sunny	31 / 12 °F
Manila	Mostly Sunny	32 / 24°F
Melbourne	AM Clouds/PM Sun	22 / 16 °F
Miami	Showers	20 / 15 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	11 / 1 °F
Osaka	AM Showers	8 / 4 °F
Paris	PM Light Rain	9 / 1 °F
Busan	AM Clouds/PM Sun	12 / 2 °F
Rome	Sunny	18 / 3 °F
Salem	Sunny	19 / 4 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	22 / 9 °F
Seoul	Sunny	8 / -6 °F
Tokyo	Rain	4 / 2 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	13 / 0 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
04:39 AM	High Tide	1.23
08:36 AM	Low Tide	1.08
1:51 PM	High Tide	1.45
9:59 PM	Low Tide	0.04

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	3, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

From Guam, with heart

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tom and Therese Mazzei traveled from Guam to Cedars-Sinai so Tom could receive specialized heart care. Photo courtesy of the Mazzei family.

People in love often say two hearts beat as one, and the hearts of Tom and Therese Mazzei are definitely in sync. When 59-year-old Tom Mazzei traveled from Guam to the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai for treatment, Therese Mazzei, his wife of more than 30 years, accompanied him and found herself being examined for her own heart symptoms.

Last fall, Tom Mazzei, director of sales for a car dealership on island, had enjoyed an evening with some cycling friends who gathered for dinner at his home in preparation for their regular Saturday ride the next morning. But he woke up later that evening with chest pains.

He was having a heart attack.

"I went downstairs to get some water, and when I came back up, I knew there was something seriously wrong," Tom Mazzei said. "I woke Therese."

After treatment at his local hospital's intensive care unit, Tom Mazzei's condition stabilized. He was discharged five days later, knowing he needed a surgical procedure to clear the blockages doctors had found in his arteries. And he knew he would have to leave the island to get the care he needed.

"Physicians on island often refer patients needing complex care off island for specialized procedures," said Donna Bias, RN, a patient services manager for Cedars-Sinai International.

However these patients are referred to Cedars-Sinai, clinical patient coordinators are with them every step of the way, coordinating medical exams, accommodations, travel arrangements and even visits to local attractions.

Bias and her colleagues gather each patient's medical records and test results from their primary physician and forward them to the Cedars-Sinai physician appropriate for their care. Then they schedule all needed consultations, testing and procedures before the patient even arrives.

» Woman from Guam accompanies husband to Cedars-Sinai for specialized procedure at the Smidt Heart Institute and has heart concern of her own evaluated

Patient services team members also attend appointments and provide language interpretation if needed, monitor patients' progress and coordinate with their doctors back home.

Arriving at Cedars-Sinai, Tom Mazzei expected to undergo open-heart surgery. He was elated when doctors in the Smidt Heart Institute told him he could be treated with minimally invasive procedures instead.

To treat a blockage in Tom Mazzei's left anterior descending artery, which supplies blood to the front left side of the heart, Danny Ramzy, MD, vice chair of Innovation, director of Robotic & Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery, and associate professor of Surgery, performed a robotic mammary artery bypass, diverting an artery that supplies the chest wall and breast to feed blood to the heart instead.

"The robotic procedure is much less invasive, so patients recover much more quickly," said Ramzy. "But the procedure isn't available everywhere. Even in the U.S., very few surgeons perform it on a regular basis."

The mammary artery bypass is also long-lasting, an advantage for someone who lives more than 6,000 miles away, said interventional cardiologist Raj Makkar, MD, vice president of Cardiovascular Innovation and Intervention and the Stephen R. Corday, MD Chair in Interventional Cardiology.

After Tom Mazzei spent a few days recovering from the bypass, Makkar treated a blockage of his right coronary artery, which supplies blood to the right side of the heart, by placing a small tube called a stent to keep the artery open. Through a tiny incision, he directed instruments to the heart via an artery in Tom Mazzei's wrist.

"We restored blood flow to his heart without making a big incision in his chest," said Makkar. "While most centers would offer him open-heart surgery, we combined our team's best talents-stenting expertise and robotic mammary expertise-to provide a minimally invasive solution personalized for this particular patient."

Therese Mazzei accompanied her husband to Cedars-Sinai for his procedures, and it turned out she was in the right place at the right time.

"I came to the hospital at 5:30am to follow Tom to his procedure," Therese Mazzei said, "but I started to feel ill. I went to the waiting room and felt like I was going to pass out. I felt really weak."

Therese Mazzei made her way to the Ruth and Harry Roman Emergency Department, where physicians were concerned she might be having a heart attack. Signs of heart attack in women can differ from those in men, and can include extreme fatigue, nausea and jaw pain.

"The team was really quick in attending to me," Therese Mazzei said. "They decided to do an angiogram. So I was there having my procedure and my husband was across the hall in the other operating room. Afterward, he went straight to the ICU and I was in the recovery room, but I was able to video chat with him to let him know I was OK and to see that he was OK."

Therese Mazzei had a left heart catheterization, a minimally invasive test that ruled out any blockage, and no further procedure was necessary. The couple chalked up her symptoms to anxiety over Tom Mazzei's condition, plus disrupted meals and sleep during their trip from Guam.

With Tom Mazzei ready for discharge, Bias gathered his medical records and also Therese Mazzei's for their trip home. Husband and wife are doing well, and Tom Mazzei is even back to riding his bike.

"I just finished a 32-mile bike ride," he said. "It's my third ride since I've been back. My heart attack was pretty bad. I was really afraid, but I'm doing better than I could expect. We were really fortunate to be treated at Cedars-Sinai." ***(PR)***

ADVERTISING Feature

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTANT

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, February 11, 2022 AT 4:00 PM

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-22-2047
Marianas Visitors Authority Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)-Airlines

Submission /Closing Date: **February 18, 2022** **Time: 10:00AM ChST**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after February 04, 2022 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-5:00PM., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-22-2047 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY TRIP-AIRLINES"** in the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-22-2048
Marianas Visitors Authority Office Space Lease

Submission/Closing Date: **February 24, 2022 Time: 11:00am ChST**
Submit sealed proposal to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after February 10, 2022 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-5:00PM., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-22-2048 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE SPACE LEASE"** in the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR/42200061
(CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. DAVID M. CALVO, RESIDENT DIRECTOR, VIA EMAIL TO davemcalvo@gmail.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID M. CALVO
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR/FW-42200060
(CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. DAVID M. CALVO, RESIDENT DIRECTOR, VIA EMAIL TO davemcalvo@gmail.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID CALVO
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

Business

Criminals use SIM swap schemes to steal millions

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is alerting the public and mobile carriers of the increasing use of Subscriber Identity Module, or SIM, swapping by criminals to steal money from fiat and virtual currency accounts.

An FBI announcement yesterday said that, from January 2018 to December 2020, the

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center received 320 complaints related to SIM swapping incidents with adjusted losses of approximately

$12 million. In 2021, IC3 received 1,611 SIM swapping complaints with adjusted losses of more than $68 million.

How a SIM swap scheme works

SIM swapping is a malicious technique where criminals target mobile carriers to gain access to victims' bank accounts, virtual currency accounts, and other sensitive information. Criminals primarily conduct SIM swap schemes using social engineering, insider threat, or phishing techniques. Social engineering involves a criminal impersonating a victim and tricking the mobile carrier into switching the victim's mobile number to a SIM card in the criminal's possession. Criminals using insider threat to conduct SIM swap schemes pay off a mobile carrier employee to switch a victim's mobile number to a SIM card in the criminal's possession. Criminals often use phishing techniques to deceive employees into downloading malware used to hack mobile carrier systems that carry out SIM swaps.

Once the SIM is swapped, the victim's calls, texts, and other data are diverted to the criminal's device. This access allows criminals to send 'Forgot Password' or 'Account Recovery' requests to the victim's email and other online accounts associated with the victim's mobile telephone number. Using SMS-based two- factor authentication, mobile application providers send a link or one-time passcode via text to the victim's number, now owned by the criminal, to access accounts. The criminal uses the codes to login and reset passwords, gaining control of online accounts associated with the victim's phone profile.

How to protect yourself

The FBI recommends individuals take the following precautions:

■ Do not advertise information about financial assets, including ownership or investment of cryptocurrency, on social media websites and forums.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMTI

NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 323.6601
Procurement Office

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

RFP-NMTI/2022-002

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute and the Board of Trustees are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing services for Independent Consultant for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

The Scope of Work is available beginning February 10, 2022 at the NMTech Procurement Office, located at the NMTech Main Office, Lower Base. Request may be sent via email to Ms. Amy Lynn Babauta at amy.babauta@nmtechcnmi.org.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Ms. Amy Lynn Babauta and may be sent via email at amy.babauta@nmtechcnmi.org no later than February 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Response to questions will be on February 18, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Electronic submissions will be accepted if approved prior to the submission deadline.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked RFP-NMTI/2022-002 – containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the NMTech Procurement Office no later than February 24, 2022 at 1:00pm. Any proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

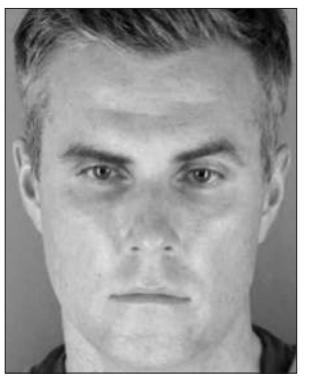
/s/ Jodina C. Attao
CEO

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

Nation

Trainer says officers in Floyd killing 'did not follow policy'

Kueng


Lane

Thao

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A Minneapolis police officer who oversaw medical training for two of the three former officers charged with violating George Floyd's civil rights testified that the officers failed to follow their training to do everything they could to prevent his death.

Officer Nicole Mackenzie, the department's medical support coordinator, took the stand Tuesday for a second day in the federal trial of J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao. She testified Monday that Kueng and Lane were in a police academy "emergency medical responder" class that she taught, which covered first aid, ethics in care and how to hand people off to paramedics. On Tuesday, Mackenzie also discussed refresher training that Thao would have received.

Prosecutor Allan Slaughter played body camera video in which Floyd repeatedly complains, "I can't breathe," as Officer Derek Chauvin kneels on the Black man's neck for 9 1/2 minutes while Floyd is handcuffed, face-down. Mackenzie said what she saw and heard was "inconsistent" with what Kueng and Lane were trained to do and with departmental policies. She said they should have stood or sat Floyd up or rolled him onto his side.

Mackenzie also said what she saw and heard of Thao's actions when reviewing his body camera video was "inconsistent" with officers' training because she saw no efforts to render aid.

Kueng, Lane and Thao are accused of depriving Floyd, 46, of his rights when they failed to give him medical aid. Kueng and Thao are also accused of failing to intervene in the May 2020 killing, which triggered protests worldwide and a reexamination of racism and policing.

Previous testimony has established that Chauvin — the most senior officer on the scene with 19 years of experience — told his fellow officers after Floyd became unresponsive and they couldn't find a pulse to wait for an ambulance that was on its way. Officers kept restraining Floyd until the ambulance got there, according to testimony and video footage.

Mackenzie testified Tuesday that it's been the standard "as long as I've been around" that officers are supposed to call for an ambulance and begin CPR right away if they can't find a pulse. She said they're told not to wait even if an ambulance is already on the way.

"If you can't detect a pulse after about 10 seconds, then you should begin CPR," Mackenzie testified.

Defense attorneys contend the officers received inadequate training and have challenged statements by officials that Minneapolis officers are not trained to use their knees to pin people down the way Chauvin did.

Thao's attorney, Robert Paule, again suggested that the officers were concerned that Floyd was in an agitated state known as excited delirium, though experts have testified he did not appear to be suffering from the disputed condition.

Paule played videos of some Minneapolis police academy training scenarios. Mackenzie acknowledged that one showed a cadet using his knee on someone's neck, similar to what Chauvin did with Floyd, and that the cadet's instructor did not correct him.

Emhoff whisked from event after bomb threat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, was whisked out of an event Tuesday at a Washington high school by Secret Service agents following a bomb threat.

Emhoff was at Dunbar High School to help commemorate Black History Month and was in the school's museum for a few minutes when a member of his security detail approached him saying, "We have to go." Emhoff was hustled out into his waiting motorcade and whisked away.

An overhead announcement then instructed students and teachers to "evacuate the building."

District of Columbia Public Schools spokesperson Enrique Gutierrez, who was at Dunbar for Emhoff's appearance, said there had been a bomb threat.

The U.S. Secret Service said in a statement later Tuesday that "at this time there is no information to indicate the threat was directed toward our protectee," meaning Emhoff.

"This afternoon, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) responded to a bomb threat at Dunbar High School," Gutierrez said afterward in a formal emailed statement. "All students and visitors were safely evacuated in accordance with DC Public Schools protocols and given the time of the incident, students were then dismissed for the school day."

Emhoff spokesperson Katie Peters said the school had alerted the Secret Service about what she said was a "security incident or a report of a potential security incident."

"U.S. Secret Service was made aware of a security threat at a school where the @SecondGentleman was meeting with students and faculty," Peters added in a later tweet. "Mr. Emhoff is safe and the school has been evacuated. We are grateful to Secret Service and D.C. Police for their work."

Asia

5 PH presidency hopefuls open national campaigns

AP

From left, former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., vice president and presidential hopeful Leni Robredo, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and retired boxing hero and senator Manny Pacquiao.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Campaigning in the Philippines' presidential election started Tuesday with a cast of candidates led by a late dictator's son and the pro-democracy current vice president, with all vowing to bail out a country driven deeper into poverty by the pandemic and plagued by gaping inequalities and decades-long insurgencies.

The official three-month election campaign for national posts, including the president and separately elected vice president and half of the 24-seat Senate, opened under tough anti-virus restrictions including a ban on handshakes, kissing, hugging and tightly packed crowds aimed at dampening the carnival-like rallies that have been the hallmark of Philippine elections. Social media has become a key battleground in the May 9 elections given the restrictions with many fearing disinformation could worsen in an intense race.

Candidates for more than 18,000 local positions, including provincial governors, town mayors and House of Representatives seats open their campaigns on March 25 under tight police watch due to a history of violent rivalries. More than 65 million Filipinos have registered to vote in the country and another 1.8 million overseas.

The presidential aspirants waved from convoys festooned with huge portraits of themselves to thousands of cheering followers. The day-long campaigning ended with night rallies including speeches, music and dance.

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the dictator who was overthrown in a 1986 army-backed "people power" uprising, has topped pre-election surveys by a wide margin, alarming proponents of human rights and democracy, including Vice President Leni Robredo.

Robredo narrowly defeated Marcos Jr. in the 2016 vice presidential race but is trailing far behind him in recent polls for the presidential race, despite human rights atrocities and corruption during his father's rule that he has described as "lies."

In a speech before thousands of supporters at a sports arena north of Manila, Marcos Jr. did not touch on the allegations against him and his family and instead called for unity during the pandemic and economic hard times. "Let's unite the entire Philippines," he said. "All of us will rise together again."

Robredo asked Filipinos to help her pursue major political reforms. "This is a chance for us to change the direction of politics in our country," she said at a rally in her home region. "Even if there is a change in names, nothing will happen if our rotten political system remains the same."

The other main presidential contenders include Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, a former actor who has impressed many with his rags-to-power life story and cleanup of the capital, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former national police chief known for his exploits against crime and corruption, and Sen. Manny Pacquiao, the former boxing star who has vowed to jail corrupt politicians and provide free houses to the poor.

More than three decades after the downfall of the elder Marcos, his family has tapped into the disenchantment of many Filipinos "against the inherent contradictions and deficiencies of the elite democracy that replaced the Marcos dictatorship," Manila-based political analyst Richard Heydarian said, adding that "pro-Marcos propaganda has really swarmed mass media."

"What we're witnessing now, especially with the massive surge that Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is enjoying, is nothing short of a counter revolution," Heydarian said.

Marcos died in 1989 while in exile in Hawaii without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he, his family and cronies amassed an estimated $5 billion to $10 billion while he was in power. A Hawaii court later found him liable for human rights violations and awarded $2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.

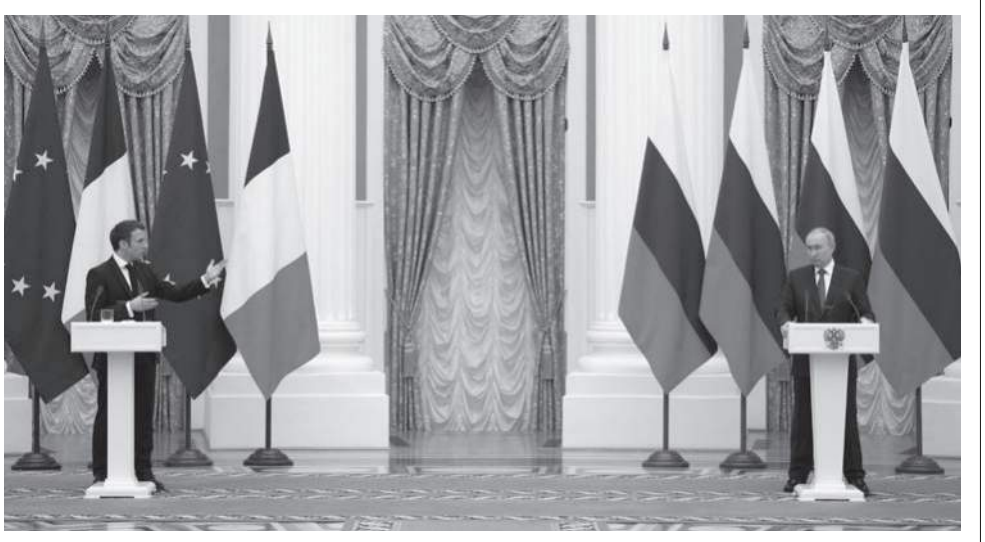
His widow, Imelda Marcos, and their children were allowed to return to the Philippines in 1991. They have since made a stunning political comeback, winning seats in Congress and powerful provincial posts that have brought them closer to the presidency.

Marcos Jr., 64, has served as vice governor and governor of northern Ilocos Norte province, congressman and senator. A sister, Imee Marcos, is currently a senator.

Despite Marcos Jr.'s lead in opinion polls, analysts say it's too early to predict the election outcome given often-unpredictable shifts in the volatile Philippine politics. "The surveys are just a snapshot," said Jean Franco, a professor at the University of the Philippines.

World

Macron: Putin said Russia won't escalate Ukraine crisis



AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, listens during a joint press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron after their talks Monday, Feb. 7, 2022 in Moscow.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin told him that Moscow would not further escalate the Ukraine crisis.

Macron also said it would take time to find a diplomatic solution to the rising tensions, which represent the biggest security crisis between Russia and the West since the Cold War.

His remarks on a visit to Kyiv came as the Kremlin denied reports that he and Putin struck a deal on de-escalating the crisis. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "in the current situation, Moscow and Paris can't be reaching any deals."

Macron met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy amid mounting fears of a Russian invasion. Moscow has massed over 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders, but insists it has no plans to attack.

The Kremlin wants guarantees from the West that NATO will not accept Ukraine and other former Soviet nations as members, that it halt weapon deployments there and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe—demands the U.S. and NATO reject as nonstarters.

At a news conference after meeting Zelenskyy, Macron said Putin told him during their more than five-hour session Monday that "he won't be initiating an escalation. I think it is important."

According to the French president, Putin also said there won't be any Russian "permanent (military) base" or "deployment" in Belarus, where Russia had sent a large number of troops for war games.

Peskov said withdrawing Russian troops from Belarus after the maneuvers was the plan all along.

Zelenskyy said he would welcome concrete steps from Putin for de-escalation, adding he didn't "trust words in general."

Macron also sought to temper expectations.

"Let's not be naive," he said. "Since the beginning of the crisis, France hasn't been inclined to exaggerate, but at the same time, I don't believe this crisis can be settled in a few hours, through discussions"

Retired pope asks pardon for handling of abuse

ROME (AP)—Retired Pope Benedict XVI asked forgiveness Tuesday for any "grievous faults" in his handling of clergy sex abuse cases, but denied any personal or specific wrongdoing after an independent report criticized his actions in four cases while he was archbishop of Munich, Germany.

Benedict's lack of a personal apology or admission of guilt immediately riled sex abuse survivors, who said his response reflected the Catholic hierarchy's "permanent" refusal to accept responsibility for the rape and sodomy of children by priests.

Benedict, 94, was responding to a Jan. 20 report from a German law firm that had been commissioned by the German Catholic Church to look into how cases of sexual abuse were handled in the Munich archdiocese between 1945 and 2019. Benedict, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, headed the archdiocese from 1977 to 1982.

The report faulted Benedict's handling of four cases during his time as archbishop, accusing him of misconduct for having failed to restrict the ministry of the four priests even after they had been convicted criminally. The report also faulted his predecessors and successors, estimating there had been at least 497 abuse victims over the decades and at least 235 suspected perpetrators.

The Vatican on Tuesday released a letter that Benedict wrote to respond to the allegations, alongside a more technical reply from his lawyers who had provided an initial 82-page response to the law firm about his nearly five-year tenure in Munich.

The conclusion of Benedict's lawyers was resolute: "As an archbishop, Cardinal Ratzinger was not involved in any cover-up of acts of abuse," they wrote. They criticized the report's authors for misinterpreting their submission, and asserted that they provided no evidence that Benedict was aware of the criminal history of any of the four priests.

Benedict's response was more nuanced and spiritual, though he went on at length to thank his legal team before even addressing the allegations or the abuse victims.

"I have had great responsibilities in the Catholic Church," Benedict said. "All the greater is my pain for the abuses and the errors that occurred in those different places during the time of my mandate."

Benedict issued what he called a "confession," though he didn't confess to any specific fault. He recalled that daily Mass begins with believers confessing their sins and asking forgiveness even for"grievous faults." Benedict noted that in his meetings with abuse victims while he was pope, "I have seen firsthand the effects of a most grievous fault.

Environment

By IVA MAURIN
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Serving the community, caring for the environment

Thirty years ago, on Jan. 7, 1992, the very first Lions Club was chartered on island. Three decades later, the organization is still going strong, with over 400 members serving the community without expecting anything in return.

Just at the end of last month, members of the Lions Club gathered to do their monthly cleanup, picking up and collecting bags of trash from their adopted site, the Tanapag Beach. Three weeks before that, they also did a cleanup at Sugar Dock.

Aside from cleanups of their adopted sites, Lions Club also has a Young Tree Care Program, where they not only help plant trees all over the island, but provide protectors for them.

"We are committed to the 5 Global Causes of LCI, and one of it is the Environment," Eden Mercado told *Saipan Tribune*. "Caring for our environment and its natural resources is the best way to give back and show our love to our Mother Earth. And at the same time we are hoping that we are modeling directly and indirectly to the new generations."

Mercado is the chairperson of Lions Club International on island (Region 2) where there are currently eight Lions clubs—the Saipan Fil-American LC, Saipan Unity LC, Saipan Marianas LC, Saipan Alliance LC, Saipan Natibu LC, Saipan Centennial LC, Saipan Pacific LC, and Saipan Fitbeat LC.

The Region also has three Leo clubs (youth organization of LCI)—the Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club, Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club, and Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club.

"The Lions club has several environmental projects such as [the] adoption of beach areas, pavilions, bus stops, [and] school cleanups and painting. Our Leos are mostly doing campus cleanups. We also have tree planting as part of Lions and Leo projects," Mercado added.

Tree planting and cleaning beach sites

According to Mercado, the Lions clubs have different sites adopted that members have been regularly cleaning up in the past years. Saipan Unity LC and Saipan Pacific, for instance, adopted the Tanapag Beach area, and Saipan Natibu LC adopted Managaha Island.

As a Region, they have also adopted the Sugar Dock area through the private-public partnership with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. They clean the area every first Saturday of the month.

"The last time we had our cleanup was on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2021…participated [in] by about 90 Lions and Leos volunteers," Mercado said. "Although we are not weighing the trash that we collected, we are grateful for the help of Mr. Max Aguon for always transporting our collected trash to the dump site."

Aside from picking up trash and making sure their adopted beach sites are clean, Region 2 Lions also has a tree planting program including at Laly 4, Tanapag, Kagman, and even in school campuses.

"We are protecting our environment and its natural resources for long time benefits, not just for the current generation but for the future generations. We are indeed enjoying what we have now—clean ocean, fresh air, beautiful mountains—because the generations before us took care of it, and this is our time to pay forward.

"Let us be kind to our nature, taking good care of our environment will give us a good benefit in return. A simple act of kindness will make a big difference," Mercado added.

If you share the Lions Club's passion for serving the community and want to join them, or would like to know more information about their causes, contact Region 2 chair Eden Mercado at (670) 788-2416; Zone chairs Alicia Barbo at (670) 789-7967 and Ma. Sandra Bartolome at (670) 287-2502; or secretary Donna Fronda at (670) 285-5180.

To learn more about the Lions Clubs International, visit www.lionsclub.org.

Members of the Lions Club International on the island conduct regular monthly cleanups in their adopted beaches. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lions Club members and Leo volunteers place painted used tires around young trees to protect them from bush cutting, or getting run over by cars and other non-motorized vehicles. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Unity Lions Club members pick up trash at their adopted beach site in Tanapag. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Life & Style

‘Power of the Dog’ tops Oscar noms with 12; ‘Dune’ nabs 10

AP

This combination of photos shows promotional art for the films nominated for an Oscar for best picture, top row from left, “Belfast,” “CODA,” Don’t Look Up,” Drive My Car,” Dune,” bottom row from left, “King Richard,” Licorice Pizza,” “Nightmare Alley,” “The Power of the Dog,” and “West Side Story.”

NEW YORK (AP)—After a pandemic year that hobbled movie theaters and saw streaming services make new inroads into Hollywood, the Academy Awards put its strongest support Tuesday behind two films made with big-screen grandeur that were also streamed into homes: Jane Campion’s gothic western “The Power of the Dog” and Denis Villeneuve’s sci-fi epic “Dune.”

Netflix’s “The Power of the Dog” led nominations to the 94th Academy Awards with 12 nods, including best picture, best director and recognition for all of its top actors: Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

Campion, a nominee for 1993’s “The Piano,” became the first woman to ever be nominated twice for best director. Last year, Chloé Zhao became just the second woman to ever win the award. Campion’s director of photography, Ari Wegner, also became the second woman ever nominated for best cinematography.

“Dune” followed closely behind with 10 nominations spread out largely in the technical categories that rewarded the gargantuan craft of Villeneuve’s adaptation of Frank Herbert’s 1965 novel, yet unexpectedly bypassed Villeneuve’s direction. The Warner Bros. release debuted simultaneously in theaters and—against the strenuous objections of its director — on HBO Max.

With “The Power of the Dog” and “Dune,” the nominees for best picture were: “Belfast,” “CODA,” “Don’t Look Up,” “Drive My Car,” “Licorice Pizza,” “King Richard,” “Nightmare Alley” and “West Side Story.”

No streaming service has ever won best picture, but half of the 10 nominees were released by streamers. This year, the odds may be better than ever that Netflix—which led all studios with 27 nominations—or another service will finally break through.

Apple TV+ notched its first best-picture nomination with the deaf drama “CODA,” which also made history as supporting-actor nominee Troy Kotsur became only the second deaf actor ever nominated. (His “CODA” co-star Marlee Matlin was the first.) Netflix backed “The Power of the Dog” and Adam McKay’s apocalyptic comedy “Don’t Look Up.” And both “King Richard” and “Dune” launched on HBO Max. Even the academy for the first time ruled out hard-copy DVD screeners for its members, who instead could watch submissions on the academy’s streaming platform.

In pulling from films released in myriad ways, the Oscar nominations reflected the tumult of a movie year that began with many theaters shuttered and ended with Sony Pictures’ “Spider-Man: No Way Home” smashing box-office records. While some had urged the Oscars to embrace its most popular blockbusters and return some populism to the awards, Spidey ultimately landed only a single nomination, for visual effects.

A largely virtual awards season added some unpredictability to the nominations. The Oscars, set for March 27, are later than usual. A return to their usual venue, the Dolby Theatre, is planned.

And there were surprises all around. Lady Gaga, star of “House of Gucci,” was overlooked in the uber-competitive best actress category. Nominated instead were Jessica Chastain (“The Eyes of Tammy Faye”), Olivia Colman (“The Lost Daughter”), Penélope Cruz (“Parallel Mothers”), Nicole Kidman (“Being the Ricardos”) and Kristen Stewart for “Spencer”—whose hopes for her first Oscar nomination were set back after she was snubbed by the Screen Actors Guild.

“Drive My Car,” Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi’s masterful three-hour drama, scored major nominations including best picture, best director and best adapted screenplay. The academy, which in 2020 made Bong Joon Ho’s Korean thriller “Parasite” the best picture winner, has drifted overseas in recent years, as more international members have been added to help diversify the organization.

Other underdogs celebrated, too. The small, remote Himalayan country Bhutan received its first Oscar nomination in its first-ever submission: “Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom,” for best international film.

In many ways, the nominations kept one foot in Hollywood’s past and one in its future. Steven Spielberg, whose “West Side Story” landed seven nominations, became the first filmmaker nominated for best director in six different decades. His 11 best picture nominations are the most ever. Another remake that harkened back to another era of the movie industry, Guillermo del Toro’s carnival noir “Nightmare Alley,” fared better than expected, scoring a best picture nomination over streaming titles like Netflix’s “tick, tick ... Boom!” and Amazon’s “Being the Ricardos.” No release is more old-school than Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Licorice Pizza,” nominated for Anderson’s direction and screenplay. It has slowly expanded in theaters over the last 10 weeks.

Will Smith, who plays the father of Venus and Serena Williams in “King Richard,” notched his third Oscar nomination. Also up for best actor are Cumberbatch, Andrew Garfield (“tick, tick ... Boom!”) Javier Bardem (“Being the Ricardos”) and Denzel Washington (“The Tragedy of Macbeth”). Washington, a seven-time best-actor nominee, remains the most-nominated Black man ever.

Dunst and Plemons, who have two children together, shared their first nominations.

“I knew I’d have so much more joy if we were both nominated,” Dunst, who had once predicted “a lot of shrimps” for “The Power of the Dog,” said by phone Tuesday. “It’s like a storybook, like a fairytale. It feels very special. I thought, it would be really cute if they did that. I felt like a grandma about it.

The other couple celebrating Tuesday was Bardem and Cruz, whom Dunst granted are “definitely the sexier couple.”

“We’re pretty fun, though,” she added.

Along with Dunst, the nominees for best supporting actress were a trio of first-timers—Jessie Buckley (“The Lost Daughter”), Aunjanue Ellis (“King Richard”) and Ariana DeBose, in the “West Side Story” role Rita Moreno won for 1962—and one veteran: Judi Dench. She earned her eighth Oscar nod for her performance in Kenneth Branagh’s black-and-white family drama “Belfast.”

Woman can no longer support sister’s decisions in life

DEAR ABBY: For years my sister has been in a relationship with a man who treats her terribly. She works full time and comes home to find him out partying every day. I have stood by her and offered advice and a willing ear, but at this point, her problems are affecting my marriage as well as my sanity.

His drug problems are getting worse, and he couldn’t care less how she feels. She follows him and sits outside the places he’s hanging out, which forces him to come out and talk to her. I have tried my best to get her to move on. Their kids are grown, so she can’t use them as an excuse anymore.

Last night, she told me she has decided to let him do what he wants but stay with him because his health is deteriorating from the drug use. After 13 years of being her emotional support because she never makes an effort to get out, I’ve reached the end of my rope.

I feel terrible guilt for feeling this way, but I recently had a baby, and with my new family, I no longer have the time or patience to deal with her drama. I know it may be wrong to bow out, but I need to tell her that her problems have become my problems and they’re damaging me. I don’t think she’s ever gonna draw the line.

WORN OUT SIS IN KENTUCKY

DEAR WORN OUT: Because your sister has tolerated this situation for 13 years, I, too, doubt she’s ever “gonna draw the line.” Had she done it years ago, it might have been the wake-up call her partner needed to sober up and straighten out.

I agree it is time to step back, quit trying to solve your sister’s unsolvable problems and concentrate on ones you CAN solve. And when you do, do not apologize or feel guilty for doing so. It won’t make you a bad sister but an emotionally healthier one.

***

DEAR ABBY: Like so many others, I am on social media to stay in touch with family and a few friends. I come from a large family with more than a dozen cousins and two siblings, as well as nieces and nephews.

Many of them post photos, a lot of which are about their possessions— “Look at my new car, my new house, etc.” And, of course, they expect you to “like” everything. I know, however, if I did the same thing, they would think I’m being obnoxious. Mind you, I’m not wealthy. I would like to post some photos of just the scenery, but if I did even that, I’d be looked down upon.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What’s the best way to handle all the likes everyone expects with the knowledge that they hold me to a different standard? Sometimes it’s infuriating.

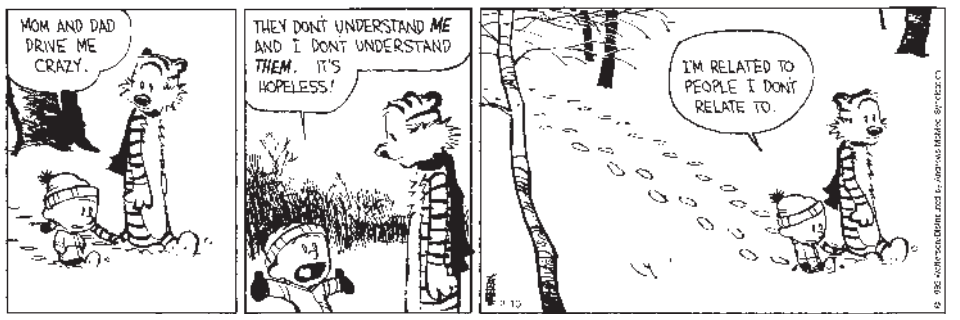
SICK OF SHOW AND TELL

DEAR SICK: You are entitled to post what you wish, as well as to “like” or IGNORE what your relatives post online. Not everyone has the time to validate every post. If you are asked, say you don’t spend as much time on the internet as they do, period. And don’t apologize.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM AND DAD DRIVE ME CRAZY.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND ME AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM. IT'S HOPELESS!
I'M RELATED TO PEOPLE I DON'T RELATE TO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

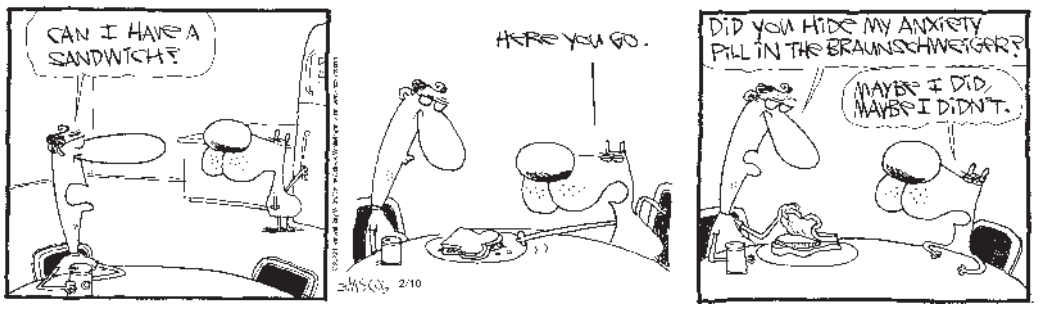
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. I'VE GROUND THE SNEEPAUT! BEAN WITH THE OTHERS.
THE AROMA SHOULD BE FULLY RELEASED. LET ME JUST...
WOO! THE SNEEPAUT! PACKS QUITE A PUNCH.
YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING.
2-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Animated Betty
5 Atlas page
8 "Let's go!"
12 Crib cry
13 Low digit
14 Chicago Mayor Lightfoot
15 Sharpen
16 Tatter
17 Part of Q.E.D.
18 Beach-wear for a baby
20 Paper fastener
22 Kimono closer
23 Sports fig.
24 Easter entrees
27 Bivouac
32 — Jima
33 Wall St. debut
34 Pester
35 "Tootsie" actress
38 Prefix with dynamic
39 Sound booster
40 "Platoon" locale
42 Female bud
45 Paragons
49 Buckeye State
50 Zero-star review
52 March Madness gp.
53 Automatons, for short
54 Showbiz job
55 Nero's 556
56 Eyelid woe
57 MGM motto start
58 Took to court

DOWN

1 Upscale autos
2 Waikiki's island
3 Portent
4 Compassion
5 Wife of Gomez Addams
6 Actress Gasteyer
7 Dowels
8 Golf shoe features
9 Narcotic drug
10 Spoken
11 Evening, informally
19 Blood type
21 Spigot
24 Chart-topping song
25 Bedazzle
26 Virtue
28 Earth Day mo.
29 Breakfast times
30 Sailor
31 Conceit
36 Levy
37 Transcript no.
38 Restitution
41 Commercial
42 Sailors
43 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
44 Women's links org.
46 Rights gp.
47 Wash
48 Stated
51 Vacuum's lack

Solution time: 24 mins.

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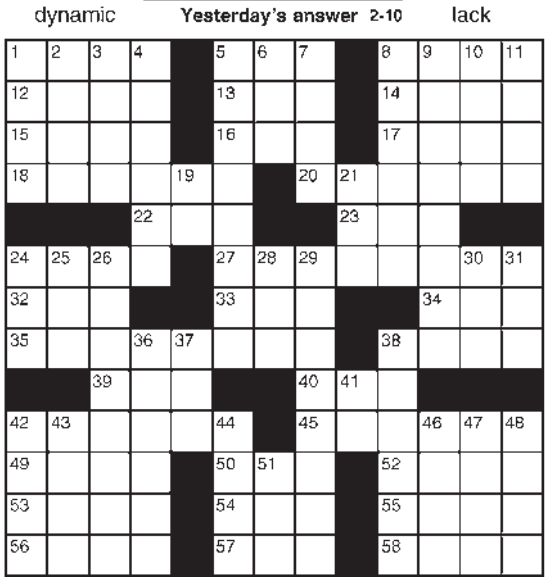
G	E	A	R		L	A	N		R	O	M	E

Yesterday's answer 2-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chloe Grace Moretz, 25; Emma Roberts, 31; Elizabeth Banks, 48; Laura Dern, 55.

Happy Birthday: Take domestic matters seriously, and build a future that is full of potential. Stick to a plan, and budget wisely. Consider what's meaningful. Be mindful of others, but don't give anyone the right to take you for granted or make you feel bad. Take the initiative to be the master of your domain and the reason for your happiness. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 25, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Trust in your instincts, experience and knowledge. Use your talents and resources to get the lowdown on a position or opportunity that is perfect for you. Hash out any concerns you have with someone close to you. Keep the peace. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* It's up to you to bring about change. Initiate what you want to happen, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Don't expect everyone to back you. What you learn in the process will help you excel. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put everything you've got into getting ahead. Don't listen to anyone trying to entice you not to fulfill your dreams or responsibilities. Do what's necessary, and you will gain respect and benefits for your hard work. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spread your wings by trying something new and exciting. Engage in something that uses your talents in a fun, unique manner, and you will make a splash that leads to recognition from someone of influence. Love and romance are encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Protect your ideas and reputation. Don't expect everyone to play fair. Keep your eyes open, and don't give anyone information that might incriminate you. Shared expenses will turn into a problem; keep your finances separate. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll have an unusual outlook regarding your relationships with others. Discuss your thoughts, concerns and intentions, and you'll come to an agreement that can enhance your life and how you move forward. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* See what's happening in your industry; check out something that can contribute to your qualifications, skills, knowledge or experience. Listen to complaints, but don't give in to anyone trying to make you feel guilty or inadequate. Love and be proud of yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Handle domestic and financial matters carefully. If you let your emotions take over, you are likely to overspend or get involved in a stressful joint venture. Listen to the people you know and trust, not a persuasive salesperson. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Choose your words carefully to avoid misinterpretation. Express your true feelings and what you want and expect from someone close to you. Distance yourself from anyone who promotes indulgent behavior or uses emotional manipulation to mislead you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Implement the changes you want to incorporate into your daily routine. A disciplined approach to fitness, health and taking better care of your finances will push you in the right direction. Share something special with someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get organized at home to make life easier. Take care of those less able to do for themselves. The goodness you offer will reflect how others treat you. Stick to the basics, and you'll have time for what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't trust anyone playing mind games. Stick to what you know and trust, and go directly to the source if something interests you. You stand to prosper if you take command. Share your intentions with someone you love. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, helpful and organized. You are responsible and sensitive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9		5	2
		4		1		9	3
	2			6			
							6
2	7	5		4	3	8	
				8		3	
8	1			3	2		
7	6		5				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	8	1	5	9	2	3	6	4
4	9	6	7	3	1	5	2	8
2	5	3	4	8	6	7	9	1
9	6	2	1	7	4	8	5	3
5	7	8	9	2	3	4	1	6
3	1	4	6	5	8	9	7	2
1	4	5	3	6	9	2	8	7
6	2	7	8	4	5	1	3	9
8	3	9	2	1	7	6	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MY GROCERY LIST **Solution: 7 letters**

S	R	E	T	T	U	B	S	K	G	R	E	E	N	S
E	E	E	S	E	E	H	C	L	C	A	K	E	S	E
O	N	I	H	Y	S	Y	C	I	I	J	Z	T	C	V
T	E	E	R	C	O	G	S	M	S	O	U	U	S	I
A	T	S	E	R	T	G	I	N	R	N	D	I	E	L
T	E	W	A	F	E	U	U	F	I	O	W	T	C	O
O	E	E	S	R	F	B	B	R	R	F	A	O	U	E
P	W	H	L	U	O	O	W	P	T	O	F	F	A	R
A	S	S	A	I	S	K	C	A	N	S	F	U	S	O
C	E	A	S	T	L	A	S	I	R	L	L	A	M	T
K	A	C	U	S	H	T	O	R	B	T	E	T	E	S
A	F	U	G	S	P	N	S	P	U	O	S	S	A	A
G	O	O	A	A	A	S	D	N	O	M	L	A	L	L
E	O	N	R	V	S	G	H	C	A	N	I	P	S	A
S	D	I	L	E	D	A	E	R	B	Y	R	I	A	D

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Almonds, Bread, Broths, Buggy, Buns, Butcher, Butter, Cakes, Cashews, Cheese, Coffee, Dairy, Deli, Figs, Frozen, Fruits, Greens, Juice, Mall, Meals, Milk, Muffins, Nuts, Oils, Olives, Onion, Packages, Pasta, Potatoes, Produce, Salad, Salsa, Salt, Sauces, Sausage, Save, Seafood, Snacks, Soups, Spinach, Store, Strawberries, Sugar, Sweetener, Tofu, Waffles, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Compounds

The NEW **Treasuries 46 and 47** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Celtics win 6th straight, send Nets to 9th straight loss

NEW YORK (AP)— Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart each scored 22 points and the Boston Celtics rolled to their sixth straight win, beating the star-less Brooklyn Nets 126-91 on Tuesday night.

Without Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving, the Nets weren't competitive in their ninth straight loss. Boston jumped to a 28-2 lead in a game that was never in doubt.

Harden missed his third straight game with left hamstring tightness. Durant remains out with a sprained knee ligament and Irving is still ineligible to play home games because he isn't vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Jayson Tatum scored 19 points as the Celtics continued their strong stretch and moved past the Nets into seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) celebrates after scoring with guard Marcus Smart (36) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in New York.

Bucks 131, Lakers 116

In Los Angeles, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 44 points on 17-for-20 shooting, and Bobby Portis had 23 points with five 3-pointers in Milwaukee's victory over Los Angeles.

Khris Middleton scored all of his 21 points in the first half, and Antetokounmpo added 14 rebounds and eight assists while making his first 11 shots as the defending NBA champions won their fourth straight overall and swept back-to-back games against LA's two teams.

Milwaukee jumped to a 24-point lead in the first half with 70% shooting and led by 30 midway through the third quarter before surviving the Lakers' strong late rally. The Bucks hung on for their third win on a four-game West Coast road trip that ends with an NBA Finals rematch in Phoenix on Thursday.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Anthony Davis had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who couldn't catch up to the champs even on a rare night with both superstars in their injury-riddled lineup. LA has lost five of seven to fall back to three games below .500.

Suns 114, 76ers 109

In Philadelphia, Devin Booker scored 35 points and Chris Paul had 16 points and 12 assists to lead Phoenix past Philadelphia for its NBA-high 44th win.

The Suns rallied from a 14-point deficit to win for the 14th time in 15 games, raising their record to 44-10.

Joel Embiid had 34 points and 12 rebounds for the Sixers, though he mishandled the ball twice in the final minutes to doom their comeback try. Embiid had his fifth straight 25-point, 10-rebound game, the longest streak in the NBA over the last two seasons and the longest for a Sixers player since, well, Embiid hit six straight in 2018-19.

Hawks 133, Pacers 112

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 34 points and Atlanta regained its 3-point touch, overwhelming trade-depleted Indiana.

After making only 5 of 25 3s in Sunday's 103-94 loss at Dallas, the Hawks sank 17 of 33 long-range shots.

John Collins added 20 points as the Hawks regrouped after losing two straight games and three of four. Young, Collins and most starters sat out the fourth quarter.

Chris Duarte led the Pacers with 25 points. Lance Stephenson had 24 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in his first start of the season.

Timberwolves 134, Kings 114

In Sacramento, Calif., Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points, Minnesota made 22 3-pointers and the Timberwolves won their fifth straight, beating Sacramento.

Malik Beasley matched his career-high with seven 3-pointers and scored 21 points, helping the Timberwolves to their ninth win in 12 games. D'Angelo Russell added 14 points and seven assists. De'Aaron Fox had 29 points, six assists and seven rebounds after missing eight games for Sacramento. Earlier in the day the Kings, who have lost nine of 11, acquired Domantas Sabonis from the Indiana Pacers as part of a six-player trade.

Pelicans acquire McCollum in 7-player trade with Blazers

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— The New Orleans Pelicans acquired guard CJ McCollum from the Portland Trail Blazers as part of a seven-player trade on Tuesday that comes as the Pelicans make a push to qualify for the NBA postseason.

"It's going to elevate our group," Pelicans first-year coach Willie Green said Tuesday night. "CJ has seen it all. He's been in the league for a decade, (he's) been to a conference championship. He's won at extremely high levels. He's a pro, and we need guys like him to elevate on the court. So we're excited. I'm excited. He's excited."

The Pelicans also received forwards Larry Nance Jr. and Tony Snell in the deal, while the Trail Blazers get forward Josh Hart, and guards Tomas Satoransky, Nickeil Alexander-Walker and Didi Louzada, as well as draft compensation in the form of a 2022 protected first-round draft choice and two future second-rounders.

The trade marks the end of an era in Portland, where McCollum has been paired with Damian Lillard in the backcourt since 2013. Portland has reached the playoffs every season since they drafted McCollum. However, the Blazers struggled in the postseason, reaching the Western Conference finals only once while being eliminated in the first round five times.

The 30-year-old McCollum is averaging 20.5 points, 4.5 assists and 4.3 rebounds this season.

He gives the Pelicans a needed outside shooting threat and overall reliable scorer at a time when New Orleans appears to be on the upswing — despite playing this season without star forward Zion Williamson. After starting 1-12, the Pelicans (22-32) have climbed into the final play-in spot in the Western Conference with the help of their current four-game winning streak.

Williamson, incidentally, has been in Oregon trying to rehabilitate from offseason surgery to repair his fractured right foot. It is unclear if he will be ready to return this season.

The Pelicans are making less than 33% from 3-point range this season and they are 29th in the league in 3-pointers made. McCollum has shot no less than 37.5% from beyond the arc every season of his career, while shooting 38.4% overall for his career.

"I'm very hyped," Pelicans center and power forward Jaxson Hayes, who is in his third NBA season, said of playing with McCollum. "I've been xwatching him since I was little, so that's going to be really fun for me."

In 2019, McCollum signed a three-year contract extension worth $100 million that runs through the 2023-24 season. It took effect this season.

This marks the second multiple-player trade the Blazers have made in advance of Thursday's deadline. On Friday, Portland sent Norman Powell and Robert Covington to the Los Angeles Clippers in exchange for Eric Bledsoe, Justise Winslow and Keon Johnson. That move was widely seen as financial, as it put the Blazers below the luxury tax threshold.

Lillard, a six-time All-Star, has been sidelined since the start of the year with an abdominal injury that required surgery. Like Williamson, it is unclear when, or if, he will return this season, but Lillard was at the team's practice facility on Monday putting up a few shots.

Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said Tuesday night that he could not comment on the specifics of the trade because it had not been formally approved. But he did praise McCollum.

Pacers deal All-Star Sabonis to Kings in 6-player trade

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)— The Indiana Pacers will look completely different when they return home later this week, while the Sacramento Kings are getting a two-time All-Star.

The teams agreed to a six-player trade Tuesday that will send star forward Domantas Sabonis to Sacramento and emerging point guard Tyrese Haliburton to the Pacers.

The Pacers confirmed the deal following Tuesday night's 133-112 loss at Atlanta.

The Kings will get Justin Holiday, Jeremy Lamb and a second-round draft pick in addition to Sabonis. Indiana is adding Haliburton, Buddy Hield and Tristan Thompson.

"It's an exciting trade and it changes the landscape significantly," said Pacers coach Rick Carlisle, who described Haliburton as "an elite young point guard that affects the game positively in many, many ways.

"We're getting three players who are good now and in the case of Tyrese, he has a chance to continue to grow. ... Finding a franchise-caliber point guard at age 21 is extremely difficult to do."

The trade was made after Sabonis, Holiday and Lamb participated in a practice before Tuesday night's game. Carlisle said he spoke with all three players at the team's hotel and was the first person to tell Sabonis of the trade.

"I just thanked him for an amazing few months from my perspective and several great years from the Pacers' perspective," Carlisle said.

The Pacers were left with eight healthy players against Atlanta. Guard Malcolm Brogdon (right Achilles soreness) and forward Isaiah Jackson (right ankle sprain) were held out.

Sabonis gives the Kings an immediate upgrade in the paint. He averages 18.9 points, 12.1 rebounds, and 5.0 assists, and has become a double-double machine. Sacramento's top rebounder before the deal was Richaun Holmes at 7.9 per game.

Sabonis could make a difference for a team that already has some young, talented players such as point guard De'Aaron Fox and Davion Mitchell. Sabonis also could serve as mentor to other young players — or his arrival could free up the Kings to make even more moves.

The Pacers aren't waiting to begin what could be a major overhaul.

Bengals now feel they're in Super Bowl after flying to LA

The Cincinnati Bengals finally, really feel as if they're in the Super Bowl now.

The Bengals flew into Los Angeles on Tuesday, a nice switch from preparing for Sunday's game back home in frigid Ohio to being in warm and sunny California.

Cincinnati offensive coordinator Brian Callahan said being on-site helps make the game real and tangible after feeling like something far away last week when the Bengals went about their usual routine back in Ohio.

"It's cold and miserable and all those things," Callahan said. "It's the wintertime in Ohio. Had a snowstorm and all that. It just felt like the normal process."

The Bengals were greeted with plenty of cameras at the airport, and Super Bowl logos are everywhere. They announced their arrival with a simple tweet saying, "We've made it to California."

"Now it feels real," Callahan said. "It feels like we're getting ready to play the Super Bowl. It's exciting. It's fun, trying to enjoy every moment of it."

Callahan said the Bengals have earned all of the attention and the opportunity to showcase themselves to the world. That doesn't mean they've forgotten why they're here.

"Once we start the prep, we're back into it, ready to go win a football game," Callahan said.

MOMENTUM BUILDER

No team in the NFL has been as productive as the Bengals at scoring late in the first half. That's been especially true in the playoffs when the Bengals have scored in the final two minutes of all three games to get to the Super Bowl.

Joe Burrow threw a TD pass to Tyler Boyd against the Raiders in the wild-card round, Evan McPherson kicked a late field goal to give the Bengals a halftime lead over Tennessee in the divisional round and Burrow's TD pass to Samaje Perine started the comeback from 18 points down in the AFC title game at Kansas City.

Those scores give the Bengals a league-high 74 points in the final two minutes of the first half in the regular season and playoffs, the fourth most in a season since 2000.

"It's something we were really built for," coach Zac Taylor said. "What I mean by that is one of our first installs is really on the ball, no huddle. So it doesn't really affect the communication process. It's something we've invested a lot of time in. Joe does a great job managing that.

"The receivers and the other skill guys understand the urgency to get set and be where you need to be. Of course, we got a lot of playmakers. That's why we're in the position we are. Those guys have done a great job at the end of the half, giving us some really positive momentum going into halftime."

SUPER BOWL BABY WATCH

Rams wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. is keeping his phone close by at all times. As he puts it, he's on call for baby watch.

He and his girlfriend Lauren Wood announced in November that they were expecting. Beckham signed with the Rams in November after being released by Cleveland. When a reporter asked what would happen if the baby arrives Saturday night ahead of the Super Bowl.

"I don't need you to put the energy in the air about the Saturday night or the Sunday thing because, I think God's got a different plan," Beckham said. "I don't need it during the Super Bowl. I want to be able to see my child being born, so I'm on watch, I'm on standby."

Beckham's hope? That his baby arrives by Wednesday at the latest.

LANDRY CHATS WITH OBJ

Odell Beckham Jr. couldn't quite place the voice at first.

But within a few seconds of listening to the person on the other side of the Zoom call, the Los Angeles Rams wide receiver realized it was his buddy and former LSU and Cleveland Browns teammate Jarvis Landry.

AP

Cincinnati Bengals' Markus Bailey (51) and Austin Calitro arrive at Los Angeles International Airport Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Beckham broke out in a huge smile as Landry, a surprise guest during the Rams' media session Monday, told him how happy he is he's playing in the Super Bowl.

"I ain't got no questions, man, but I want to start by saying, you're deserving of this moment," said Landry, who played with him in college and then for three seasons in Cleveland until Beckham was waived in November.

Beckham's drama-filled stint with the Browns included his father sharing a video on social media highlighting times when Baker Mayfield didn't throw Beckham passes and ended with the wide receiver being told to stay home from practice.

Beckham was signed by the Rams a few days later and has become a key contributor during Los Angeles' Super Bowl run.

"You put countless hours to where you are today and I've witnessed it all firsthand," Landry said. "You have scars to show for where you are today. This is a dream that you are actually turning into a reality and I wanted to come on here and just let you know that I'm proud of you, bro. There are so many people supporting you every step of the way bro. Continue to use your light, continue to be a blessing to others."

Landry also pointed out that his buddy is living out a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. that Beckham has on his left arm: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Beckham tapped his heart and said, "You're giving me chills," before thanking Landry.

"If it wasn't for you and I really mean this from the bottom of my heart, and I always tell you this, bro," Beckham said. "But besides Pop, there's no man who ever came into my life and has had the effect and impact that you have had to make me a better person, player, a man, soon-to-be father, brother, lover. You've shown me the light, dog, and I love you so much, bro.

"And this moment, it's for us, bro. This is everything we ever talked about, dog, so I appreciate you coming on here. You know it's nothing but love."

Landry said the feeling's mutual and added: "Go get that ring, dude!"

SPECIAL SPOT

Super Bowl viewers at the home of the Baseball Hall of Fame will get a first look at an inspirational baseball story during the big football game.

A TV commercial previewing the upcoming film, "Landis, Just Watch Me" will air Sunday night on WKTV, the NBC affiliate in upstate New York. The station's viewing audience includes Cooperstown—home of baseball's hall.

"Landis, Just Watch Me" chronicles the journey of Indiana teenager Landis Sims, who was born with no hands or feet, as he tries to make his varsity high school baseball team. The movie, directed by Eric Cochran, is scheduled to be released during the summer.

Bob Babbitt, an Ironman Triathlon Hall of Fame inductee and Challenged Athletes Foundation co-founder, was an executive producer on the film. He came up with the idea of airing a commercial during the Super Bowl. But rather than buy a multimillion-dollar spot on national TV, the one-time commercial—created by Cochran and his team at Taikuli Productions—will air in upstate New York for just $3,000.

"Super Bowl Sunday is a time to be inspired," Babbitt said. "Following Landis as he works to overcome obstacles to further his love of baseball is near impossible to describe. It must be seen. We decided the Cooperstown area, so rich in baseball history, is the place where people will most appreciate the impact of baseball on this amazing story."

SUPER BOWL FIRST & LAST

During the closing notes of the national anthem performance before the Super Bowl, pilot Steve Hinton will lead a five-plane flyover formation above So-Fi Stadium. The first-of-its-kind Super Bowl flyover formation features the U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight team.

Hinton, whose film credits include Pearl Harbor, Die Hard 2, Dunkirk and Iron Man, will pilot a vintage P-51 Mustang "Wee Willy II" from the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation and provide a live in-flight feed to NBC's Super Bowl audience from a camera mounted on the aircraft.

"Our foundation flies with the Air Force at aerial events all over the country, and this particular one is very special because we're going to have all the demo teams flying together," Hinton said on the AP Pro Football Podcast.

Hinton, who led the flyover before the Super Bowl in Minneapolis in 2018, is retiring from the Heritage Flight Team so this will be his last flyover.

"There's no better way to put a cap on it and be a part of this very historic flight," Hinton said of his 25-year career.

AP sources: Saints tab Dennis Allen to replace Sean Payton

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Dennis Allen is getting a second chance to be an NFL head coach—this time with a New Orleans Saints franchise he helped transform from an oft-stumbling, also-ran into a regular contender during the 16-year tenure of his former boss, Sean Payton.

The New Orleans Saints have promoted Allen from defensive coordinator to head coach, two people familiar with the decision said Monday.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Saints have not announced their chosen replacement for Payton, who resigned nearly two weeks ago as—by far—the franchise's all-time leader in coaching victories.

The Saints chose to promote from within after also interviewing outside candidates, including former Miami coach Brian Flores, Detroit defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn and Kansas City offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy.

Allen, 49, is in his second stint with the Saints. He first joined the Saints in 2006 as an assistant on Payton's first staff and was their defensive backs coach when they won the Super Bowl in the 2009 season. He left New Orleans in 2011 to become Denver's defensive coordinator before taking his first and only other head coaching position with the Oakland Raiders in 2012.

He was fired by the Raiders four games into the 2014 season and returned to the Saints as a senior defensive assistant in 2015 before eventually taking over as defensive coordinator late that season when Payton fired Rob Ryan.

The Saints have ranked in the top seven in the NFL defensively during the past two seasons, raising Allen's profile once again as a head coaching candidate.

Hiring Allen gives the Saints a measure of continuity, not just on defense, but with the staff, a number of whom have years of experience working with Allen.

Top Saints defensive players such as sack leader Cameron Jordan and linebacker Demario Davis also have been vocal supporters of Allen during the past half-decade.

"Just a phenomenal coach, leader," Davis said late last season. "Really understands our defense's personnel, understanding what guys do well, understands how to put us all in position to have success, really good at understanding the opponents."

Bengals defensive end Trey Hendrickson played four seasons under Allen with the Saints before signing with Cincinnati as a free agent last offseason.

Snowboardcross rider Jacobellis earns 1st US gold

ZHANGJIAKOU, China (AP)—Lindsey Jacobellis captured the United States' first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics on Wednesday, riding hard to the line in her snowboardcross final a full 16 years after a mistake cost her the title.

The 36-year-old racer was competing in her fifth Olympics and captured the first U.S. win of what has been an otherwise dismal Games for the red, white and blue.

The victory came hours after the top American racer, skier Mikaela Shiffrin, skidded out and failed to finish the first run of the slalom, making her 0 for 2 in Beijing.

Up until Wednesday, Jacobellis was best known for taking a massive lead into the final jump at the 2006 Turin Games but pulling on her board in a showboat move as she rode over the crest, then falling and settling for silver.

This time, she rode hard all the way to the line, beating Chloe Trespeuch of France, then covering her heart with her hands as she slowed. Meryeta O'Dine of Canada won the bronze.

That the first U.S. gold would come from Jacobellis, and not Shriffin, or someone else in the action park — say slopestylers Jamie Anderson or Red Gerard—was surprising. That Jacobellis would put herself in the win column after all these years was not a shock at all.

Long after the embarrassment and dismay of her "Lindsey Leap" in 2006, Jacobellis kept on riding, and winning. Since 2007, she has amassed 45 World Cup podiums; 23 of those have been golds, and she had two third-place finishes coming into the Games.

AP

United States' Lindsey Jacobellis celebrates after winning a gold medal in the women's cross finals at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China.

But that silver-medal Olympic performance has followed her, and she has largely chosen to stay out of the spotlight. At a media opportunity with all the snowboardcross riders last week, Jacobellis stayed back to concentrate on racing, her coach said.

» After fall, Shaun White stomps way into Olympic final

And while Shaun White and Chloe Kim can't take two steps around this snowboard park without getting noticed, Jacobellis walked alone with a member of the U.S. staff a few hours before her final. Nobody even noticed.

The trip back down the hill might be more crowded.

White onto medal round

After falling on his first attempt Wednesday, Shaun White hammered down a pressure-packed halfpipe qualifying run to make it through to the medal round of his fifth and final Olympics.

The three-time gold medalist fell on his signature trick on his first run — the Double McTwist 1260 — and was mired in 19th place. Each rider gets two tries and only their best score counts. The top 12 advance to Friday's final. White ended up in fourth place.

After a 50-minute wait following his fall, White returned to the top of the pipe and nailed the same run he'd tried before.

He stomped every landing and at the bottom tore off his goggles and let out a "Yeahhhh." He qualified behind two-time silver medalist Ayumu Hirano, 2018 bronze medalist Scotty James and Hirano's Japanese teammate, Ruka Hirano.

"I can't tell you the relief I felt off that last hit," White said. "It was just the thrill and excitement to be going to finals."

Chloe Kim cheered White when he reached the bottom. She was on hand at the halfpipe after cruising through her own, far less dramatic qualifying round. She was perfect through her first trip down the halfpipe and finished in first place. In her second run, she fell while trying a trick she'd never attempted before, a switch backside 720.

"Oh, well," she said at the bottom, and playfully stuck out her tongue while she waited for a score that didn't matter.

Mitsuki Ono of Japan was second in qualifying a day after appearing to be bothered by a hip ailment in training and in some discomfort. Cai Xuetong of China had the third-best score in qualifying, with Queralt Castellet of Spain also in the mix.

PAIRE

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a 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record and book a semis ticket.

SIS also notched a semis berth, as it finished second in Group A with a 2-0-1 slate. The Geckos defeated TanHoldings 1, 4-2, and TanHoldings 3, 2-1. SIS listed Elizabeth Culp, Leilani Ruszala, Jude Rayphand, Fin Altizer, Dean Duenas, Yutaro Kitagawa, Quido Jambor, Lukas Lee, Yun Hee Woo, Landon Pudney, and Theo Joab on its roster for the festival.

With SIS and Paire 2 securing the semis slots in Group A, they were paired against Shirley's Football Club and TanHoldings 2, respectively, in the Final Four round. Shirley's topped Group B after downing TanHoldings 2, 2-0, and Paire 1, 6-0. TanHoldings placed second in Group B, as it prevailed over Paire 1, 3-0.

In the semis, Paire 2 and SIS overwhelmed their respective opponents. Paire 2 shut down TanHoldings 2, 5-0, while the Geckos dominated Shirley's, 6-1. Paire 2 went on to complete its strong run in the festival with a finals win over SIS, while TanHoldings 2 settled for the third place honors after beating Shirley's in the consolation game.

The NMIFA/JFA Grassroots Festival 2022 was conducted to give children in the 9 to 11 age group opportunity to play soccer again after matches were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was also utilized to bring out players and recruit them to play for clubs that are preparing for the upcoming spring season of the NMIFA Youth League 2022.

NICK

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with me. It's a two-day tournament after all. I don't want to use it as an excuse but that's golf."

And to show how fickle the golf gods are, Sablan just this weekend shot a gross 70 during a round of golf with friends.

"Last weekend, I went out with the boys and shot my age as I'll be 70 this year. It's every golfer's dream to shoot their age. I want to dedicate my Ace of Aces win to fellow golfers," he said.

Curiously, the SGA 2021 Ace of Aces Tournament marks the first time Sablan ever won the club's championship.

"Normally I don't participate in this tournament. But this year, the group's getting smaller so I just want to support the association," he said.

Unlike his previous championships when he shared his winnings with good friend and golfing pal, Rick Kautz, Sablan didn't extent the gesture this time.

Edward Sablan finished second to his surname-sake with a two-round total of 138. SGA explained that although Edward Sablan had a lower score than Nick Sablan he was not a 2021 Ace of the Month and thus ineligible for the yearly honor.

Another Sablan came in at third as Joe I. Sablan matched Nick Sablan's 142 net but lost out on a scorecard tiebreak.

Attorney General Ed Manibusan came within a whisker of the Sablans to finish in fourth with a two-round net total of 143.

As a consolation of sorts, Edward Sablan won the January Ace of the Month Tournament held on the second day of the Ace of Aces Tournament after firing a net 65 (91 gross, 48-43), assuring him of being eligible for the 2022 season-ending competition.

In the closest to the pin, Nick Sablan won in holes No. 3 and 13, Joe Sablan took the prize in hole No. 6, Rick Kautz was without peer in hole No. 15, while Alex Tudela topped holes No. 7 and 11.

In the longest drive, Alex Tudela brought the lumber in holes No. 3 and 18. Ditto for Nick Sablan in holes No. 2 and 8.

The SGA 2022 February Ace of the Month Tournament is scheduled this Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Kingfisher Golf Link in Talafofo. Tee time is at 9:30am and show time is at 9am.

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Shuttle Time is a program launched by BWF in 2012 with the goal of making badminton one of the world's most popular and accessible school sports. It offers school access to free resources, training, and equipment to support the teaching of enjoyable and safe badminton activities to children in the 5- 15 age groups.

Under the BWF Shuttle Time Tutor Course, Villaflor and Pangilinan received guidance on delivering teaching training course to badminton coaches of schools and physical education teachers. They performed drills, identified the best possible approach for teachers that has badminton experience or without, and were introduced to the technologies that will make teaching Shuttle Time lesson easier and more accessible.

"The teachers will serve as our bridge to students. They are the ones who have the time and opportunity to work with the students, so it's important that as tutors we know how to help them teach badminton to the children in a fun, easier, and safe manner," said Villaflor, who also serves as NMBA's general secretary and initially helped the NMBA conduct a clinic for teachers last October in preparation for the TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League.

Pangilinan, an NMBA director and member of the NMI National Team that will compete in the Pacific Mini Games 2022 this June, said the course was very different from the other Shuttle Time courses they attended.

"The easiest part of the course is having access to teaching resources. It's easier for teachers to remember the program when they are teaching the sport because they will have a Shuttle Time app with them. The challenging part is I am used to teaching children, therefore I must adapt to educating adults," said Pangilinan, who was among the NMBA officials that conducted Shuttle Time sessions for students last year.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino acknowledged that P.E. teachers or educators interested in learning badminton and teaching the sport to their students are their essential partners in growing badminton in the grassroots and interscholastic levels.

"The more coaches we can develop and train, the more young players we can encourage to join and stay with the sport. Through coaches and educators, players are taught badminton skills and are also provided with activities that help them stay active," Tolentino said.

The NMBA president thanked BWF for providing the grant for the tutor course and the GNBF, led by its president Sandra Low and secretary general Sunardi Li, for hosting Villaflor and Pangilinan. Tolentino added that with the two NMBA officials getting their certification, the association can now conduct more tutor courses to help grow their local capacity as far as identifying and developing coaches are concerned. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Janelle Pangilinan, front row left, and Christy Villaflor, second row second left, pose with instructor Ian Piencenaves, second row left, and Guam National Badminton Federation members and officials after the first day of the Badminton World Federation Shuttle Time Tutor Course last weekend in Guam.

Celtics win 6th straight, send Nets to 9th straight loss

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Snowboardcross rider Jacobellis earns 1st US gold

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Paire 2 tops grassroots festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paire Football Club 2 players and coaches pose for a photo after receiving the championship trophy in the Japan Football Association-supported NMIFA/JFA Grassroots Festival 2022 held last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paire Football Club 2 and Saipan International School players battle for possession during their finals game in the Japan Football Association-supported NMIFA/JFA Grassroots Festival 2022 held last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club 2 ruled the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association/Japan Football Association Grassroots Festival 2022 after winning all its matches in the weekend event held last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire 2 capped its perfect record in the competition supported by JFA with a 2-0 finals victory over Saipan International School. Jazzroy Villagomez made both goals for Paire 2, which had Patricia Coleman as coach. Also playing for the champion team were Beatrice and Windsor Gross, Austin Aldan, Dyson Danis, Joey Mostales, Angel Demapan, Jr., and Keoni Ruszala.

It was Paire 2's second win in as many games against SIS, as the finalists crossed paths earlier in the round-robin play in Group A with the former taking a 4-2 triumph. Paire also dueled TanHoldings Football Club 1 and 3 in the elimination round and recorded a 7-0 and 3-1 victory to finish on top of Group A with

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2 NMBA officials complete Shuttle Time tutor course

Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials Janelle Pangilinan and Christy Villaflor have been certified as tutors after completing Badminton World Federation's Shuttle Time Tutor Course over the weekend.

Pangilinan and Villaflor completed the course in Guam, joining several members of the Guam National Badminton Federation in event. Ian Piencenaves, a regional development officer at Badminton Asia, conducted the two-day course that was divided into five components: introduction to Shuttle Time tutors, resources, learners, training, and planning. The course covered both practical and theoretical sessions and focused on equipping tutors with the right skills and establishing effective methods in delivering Shuttle Time lessons to teachers/educators.

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Nick 'surprise' winner of SGA Ace of Aces

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former national golfer Nick Sablan won the Saipan Golfers Association 2021 Ace of Aces Tournament held last Jan. 22 and 23 at the Laolao Golf & Resort east west courses.

The 69-year-old shot a net 70 on Day 1 of the two-day season-ending tournament before capping his victorious weekend with a net 72 on Day 2 for a total net score of 142.

Sablan, who picked up the sport in his late 20s, was oblivious that he had the lead after the first day so it came as a complete shock that he found himself holding the SGA 2021 Ace of Aces Tournament championships trophy after all was said and done.

"I didn't know my handicap went up so I didn't know I won. I was in control of the game in the second day. I was like 2-over all the way up to hole No. 15 and lost it and went double, double, double bogey," he said.

Not one to make excuses for his poor play on the second day, Sablan charged it all to fate.

"I guess my age caught up

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nick Sablan, second from left, was hailed the champion of the Saipan Golfers Association 2021 Ace of Aces Tournament held last Jan. 22 and 23 at the Laolao Golf & Resort east west courses.